THE FARMERS' CABINET,

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND RURAL ECONOMY.

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To our Patrons.

In our last number we announced our intention of changing the Cabinet from a semi-monthly, to a monthly paper,—the change has accordingly been made, and the present is the first number issued under the new arrangement. Our patrons receive the same amount of matter, and in the same form—the advantages arising from the change, and briefly referred to in our last publication, are mutual between the publisher and his subscribers. As yet we have had but one complaint; and as every person with whom we have conversed has cordially approved of the alteration, we presume we shall have no more. We avail ourselves of this opportunity of expressing our thanks for the liberal patronage afforded to the enterprize in which we are embarked; and we would also tender our acknowledgments to those correspondents whose communications have from time to time enriched the pages of the Cabinet. Their aid is still needed, and we cherish the hope that they will continue their favors. Communications from gentlemen in all parts of the country, who feel an interest in the promotion of Agricultural knowledge are requested.—Detailed accounts of experiments, and communications on all subjects of general interest to farmers, improvements, &c., are respectfully and anxiously solicited. In this important work we look to intelligent and enterprising individuals for aid; as well as to the officers of Agricultural Societies.

In regard to our subscription list we have no cause to complain, although it is not as large as could be desired, or, as might reasonably have been calculated on from the importance of the work to which the Cabinet is entirely devoted, and the very low price at which it is published. But we have been encouraged of late, by the many tokens of approbation that we have received from all quarters, and from the fact that we have had more voluntary subscriptions within the last three months, than during the fifteen months preceding.—The demand for the first volume has also increased, so that the surplus copies of that volume remaining on hand are nearly all taken up. Still we need the active co-operation of all the friends of our enterprise. If the Cabinet is calculated to promote the cause of Agriculture, and consequently individual prosperity, the benefits arising from it will be increased in proportion to its circulation.—Again, a work, from which advertisements, the life of newspapers, are wholly excluded, necessarily requires a very heavy list of paying subscribers. Such a list we need—such a list, we think, the Cabinet ought to have. If its friends will but exert themselves in its favor, the work, so far as regards the necessary circulation, is accomplished. We wish its friends in every section to make an effort to increase its circulation. Any gentleman may constitute himself a special agent by forwarding five dollars free of postage, for which we will furnish the work to seven subscribers for one year. Let every one exert his influence among his friends and neighbors, and the effort will tell upon our subscription list, and enable us to expend a greater amount in prosecuting the primary objects of the work, than our present means will justify. In proportion to the increased circulation of the Cabinet, the means of rendering it more extensively useful, are placed in our possession. We therefore ask with confidence the aid and assistance of all, by contributing to our pages, and enlarging our circulation.

JOHN LIBBY

Philadelphia, Feb., 1838.

Agricultural Society.

We take great pleasure in informing our distant readers that the PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE, has been revived under the most favorable and encouraging auspices. A list of the officers appointed for the present year, will be found in another page. This Society was chartered by an act of the Legislature in the year 1785, and has, consequently, been in existence for the period of fifty-three years.—For various causes it has been suffered to languish, and has in fact lain dormant for years together. Whenever it has been prosecuted with a zeal commensurate to the importance of the cause of agriculture, it has not only, we have been credibly informed, been well sustained, but has exerted the happiest influence on the agriculture of the country. It numbered among its officers and members some of the choicest spirits of our nation—many of them were practical men, and all of them deeply imbued with the spirit of agricultural improvement, rejoiced at every opportunity of advancing the interests of a science, so intimately blended with our national prosperity and welfare. The early communications made to the society were published in the newspapers of the day, and of course are now mainly lost to the public. But the papers presented of later years have been published from time to time, in a form suitable for binding, (being of the same size as the Cabinet) constituting, the "Memoirs of the Society." These volumes contain a vast fund of agricultural matter—and sustain a deservedly high reputation both in this country and in Europe. We have heretofore extracted articles of great value from these volumes, and shall avail ourselves of the privilege of doing so hereafter. We rejoice, and we know that the intelligent and liberal minded farmers of the country will rejoice, at the reorganization of this society. The spirit of agricultural improvement is abroad, and, standing on high ground, sustained by gentlemen of intelligence, of practical experience, of persevering industry, and untiring zeal—alive to the great importance of acting promptly and efficiently in a cause in which all are interested; we say, that we rejoice at the resuscitation of this society, at the infusion of new life, and vigor, and energy, in its operations; that we regard it as the harbinger of better days—that we look forward with confidence to the period, and that not a distant one, when its influence shall be seen and acknowledged in an improved state of agriculture, and the general advancement of the science.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Horned Cattle.—No. 3.

Having, in the last number, treated on the importance of selecting stock, and breeding from the most perfect in form and approved in quality, I must beg your indulgence and the patience of your readers, with a few more remarks in continuance of the subject:—

MR. DICKSON on short-horns says, "experience proves that they not only possess disposition to fatten, but that they consume less and less food in proportion as they attain weight and fatness," and again, "disposition to fatten insures another valuable property, *early maturity.* This property is almost peculiar to short-horns. Three years is the longest period, and very frequently oxen are fed off at two years of age." "I have frequently," he continues, "seen MR. ROBERTSON have two and a half year old steers sold for £26, (with exchange, near $1.30,) each, and brought to the weight of 72 stone, or 1008 lb. The late MR. A. WILSON used to bring two years old, to 80 stone, and sold them for £28 each, and MR. L. RENNIE, of Phantasie, has always realized £30 a piece for his two years old steers."

These, be it observed, are examples of what has been done in Scotland, where neither soil nor climate have any advantages over those of Pennsylvania. They prove very clearly that short-horned cattle, at two years old, can be made fit for the butcher; but of course, in accomplishing this object, proper management is requisite; and in addition to early maturity, English writers assure us that they yield beef of fine quality, (and who are better judges of roast beef!) a fact which some of our countrymen have disputed; their opinions, most probably, being founded on prejudice, rather than experience.

For the grazier, disposition to fatten and early maturity are the chief means to insure profit; and these qualities the improved short-horns possess in an eminent degree.

Let us now inquire how well they are suited to the dairy or milch farm. For this purpose the short-horns of England have had to fight their way through prejudice, ignorance, and

obstinacy. Many contended that they were only fit for the grazier and butcher, and sustained their arguments by instances wherein the only or chief care was to improve their feeding points; entirely neglecting their milk. In such cases, the milching qualities of cows would doubtless fail. The calves running constantly with their dams, and the pail never being used, must cause the milk to dry up fast, and gradually to diminish the powers of lactic secretion.

Mr. Dickson assures us that they usually give from 16 to 6 quarts a day, throughout the season, and they are such constant milchers that they seldom remain dry above six weeks or two months before calving.

He quotes instances in which they have not gone dry at all, and in confirmation of this, I have myself a three quarter short-horn cow, which after her first calf milched till the week previous to calving again. The quantity and richness of her milk is alone such as to make her a valuable beast, while she carries more fat and flesh than three common cows together, although feeding on the same pasture. She has now a calf from a full blooded Durham bull, two months old, and of remarkable size and beauty, yet she gives six to eight quarts per day more than it sucks. The practice, however, of dairy men in the vicinity of London, Liverpool, and other large towns of England, is sufficient to settle the question and satisfy the most sceptical. "In these dairies," says the writer quoted so frequently, "it is difficult to see cows of any other breed than short horns or crosses with them."

They are milched till about eight years old and then fed off fat for the butcher. These cows *can* be fed off fat. They thus give a return in flesh, for part of their original high price; whilst they remunerate their owners in the mean time for their food by an abundance of milk.

A Penn Township Farmer.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Remarks pon Agricultural Buildings, Barn and Stabling.—No. 3.

Continued.

The upper story of a Barn, should extend beyond the side walls of the basement, so as to shelter the stable doors and the rail-ways, and be high enough to convey provender (except grain) for the animals, from the time they are removed from pasture in autumn, till they are returned to it again in the spring. The timber and other materials of which the building is composed, should be of sufficient strength to support its contents, and the whole frame well braced. The timbers should be arranged so as to allow the barn to be filled, and the animals afterwards supplied with the contents, with the greatest possible convenience. If the horizontal joists, which extend across the building and rest upon the side walls, and caps can be procured of sufficient length to extend the whole distance from the extremity of one overshoot, (or projection,) to that of the other, such should be preferred, and all other timbers so far as practicable, should also be of sufficient length without splicing.

The overshoots should be supported entirely by the walls between the stables and railways, so that there will be no obstruction, opposite the stable doors.

Each barn floor should be lighted by a glass window, placed at the opposite side of the building from that where the loaded cart or wagon enters it. The windows should be well guarded by bars or wire screens.

A glass window should also be placed in each gable end, for the double purpose of admiting both light and air into the building; these should also be guarded by bars or screens. One half of each window should be made to rise and lower, and where they cannot conveniently be approached, this can be performed by means of cords or wires.—Those in the end, should be placed as near the upper part of the building as convenient, and that for each floor, also near the plate at the lower ends of the rafters. In constructing the angle of the roof, care should be observed not to make the rise too great, and thereby expose it unnecessarily to the horizontal force of winds; nor so little as to expose it to injury from the vertical pressure of deep snows; perhaps for the latitude and climate of Pennsylvania, the relative length of a horizontal line from the lower end of one rafter to the other, and a vertical line from the middle of this to the summit of the two rafters, might be in the same proportion as the numbers, eight and three. The vertical line, half the horizontal line, (aforesaid) and the length of one rafter will then, be in the same relative proportion as the numbers three, four, and five. The roof should receive support in a vertical direction over the side walls of the basement story, and diagonally from the studs (or posts) at the sides of the entry. The plates at or near the lower ends of the rafters should be connected by ties which extend from one to the other across the building, at the sides of each bay. These ties should be connected to the plates, and also to the vertical and diagonal posts which support the purlines and roof, and the rafters connected to the purlines and plates in such a manner, that the acute and obtuse an-

gles of intersection serve as braces, and where the connection of different parts are not sufficiently strong when attached in the usual manner by the aid of mortices, tenons and pins; or projecting shoulders, either square or diagonal with pins, keys, or wedges; *sufficient strength may be obtained by using iron straps, screw bolts and nuts, or spikes.* By placing the ties across the building at equal distances asunder, and using a space between two of them for the barn floor, from which a bay at each side may be filled, and afterwards the floor may be filled except sufficient room for the team and loaded wagon to pass in. This unoccupied part of each floor afterwards serves, as a convenient place to thresh and clean grain, shell corn, and grind grain, by the aid of portable machines for this purpose, driven either by animal, wind, or water power, used at any convenient distance from said machines, and portable connecting parts (either shafts, ropes, bands, or chains,) used when necessary. Agreeable to this arrangement of ties, a barn with two floors (as this is supposed to have,) will have seven ties across from one plate to the other; and of the six spaces between them, the two floors will occupy, the second from each end. one of these ties will be at the centre of the building between two bays, or across the middle of a double one; two of them at the ends of the building and one at each side of a floor.

Each tie is prevented from sagging between the plates, by four of the aforesaid vertical and diagonal posts which support the purlins and roof. Each post is inserted with a tenon into a mortice in a joist and a purline, with two braces connected with it and the purline.

Each tie may be connected to the posts by four horizontal screw bolts and nuts or otherwise. The purline at the upper end of the diagonal posts, may be placed equi-distant between the other and the summit of the roof, or in any other convenient position to support the roof in the best manner. Each barn floor should be twice the width of an ordinary wagon load of hay or grain, and the entrance into it closed by two doors, together as wide as the barn floor, and as high as the under side of the plate, so that one side of the floor can be filled from the other, after the bays are filled from each side of the floor. The doors may move upon hinges in the usual manner or slide in grooves or upon friction rollers, parallel with the sides of the barn, and one of them be closed after that side of the floor is filled, and the other one only used as a passage to the unfilled part of the floor; or what is still more convenient, a small door, say three or four feet wide, and six and a half feet high, made in one of the doors for an ordinary (or common) passage in and out. A stair way goes from each floor to one side of the entry below, and should not be so wide as to interfere with the passage-way in the entry. A vertical flue is made over the entry in each bay to pass hay and other provender down, (for the animals in the basement story,) of convenient dimensions, say four feet square composed of four vertical posts each connected to a joist at the lower end, and to a rafter at the upper end, and connected together by horizontal rounds placed four feet asunder, or other convenient distance. A ladder opposite (or near) a post at each side of a floor serves to pass up and down to and from the bays.

The bridge wall for the road-way into the barn, extends two or three inches under the barn floor joists at one end, and extends on each side of the road-way a sufficient distance from the barn, to make the road-way (when filled with earth) a suitable angle of elevation toward the barn. The walls should be of sufficient thickness and of a suitable form not to be displaced by frost or outward pressure of the earth, the side next to and parallel with the side of the barn should be vertical or nearly so; not to interfere with the rail-way.

By adopting the aforesaid arrangement, the upper story (for the provender) can be made of any convenient length, without interfering with the basement story below for the animals. The flues and stair-ways, serve to convey pure air to the basement story, and by placing a sliding (or other) door at the lower end of the flue, and making them and the stair entry and stable doors to fit each opening when closed; a temperature may be obtained sufficiently uniform for the health of all the animals in the basement story, by admitting more or less air to them by opening or closing the doors and windows to any required degree, and by using shutters to each window, any required degree of light may be admitted.

The sides of the building above the basement story should be weather-boarding.

The ends and the whole of the basement story between the doors and windows upwards from a foot or two above the ground, may either be frame and weather-boards, or stone or brick laid in lime and sand mortar. The remainder should be stone, laid in lime and sand mortar, and deep enough to be out of the reach of frost, the external surface guarded by paint or cement.

The operation of the machinery is as follows, viz: A rope is passed over a pully in each of the blocks 1, 2, and 3, and one end attached to the horizontal axle of the vertical wheel 4; the other end of the rope has a hook made fast to it, to ascend and descend with the

rope. Another rope is passed over another pully in blocks, 1, and 3, one end of which is attached to the axle of the wheel 4, and a hook to the other end of the rope. A third rope is passed over the other pully in block 3, and is also connected to the axle of a hook as aforesaid. These hooks descend far enough to be attached to the wagon body; these over 2, and 3 to the ends of it, rather farther from the centre of the floor than the middle of the load. The rope descending from 1, to the side of the load next to the centre of the floor, is passed under the load and attached to the other side of the wagon body. Another rope is made to uncoil from the wheel while the three aforesaid coil upon the axle of it, by means of a horse or other power, attached to the rope which is upon the wheel, and made to move from the building, (drawing the rope under the friction pully 5, at or near the lower end of the road-way,) a sufficient distance for the load to be discharged over the tie M, M, into the bay, when a small downward force is applied by the hand of a person to raise the rope at the under side of the load, and thereby cause it to make part of a revolution sufficient to cause the load to fall into the bay, the hooks at the ends of the load serving as a pulleman.

By shifting the machine, the opposite bay can be filled or other floors used in like manner.

The wagon body can be attached and detached to and from the running gears in a few seconds, by means of screw or spring bolts.

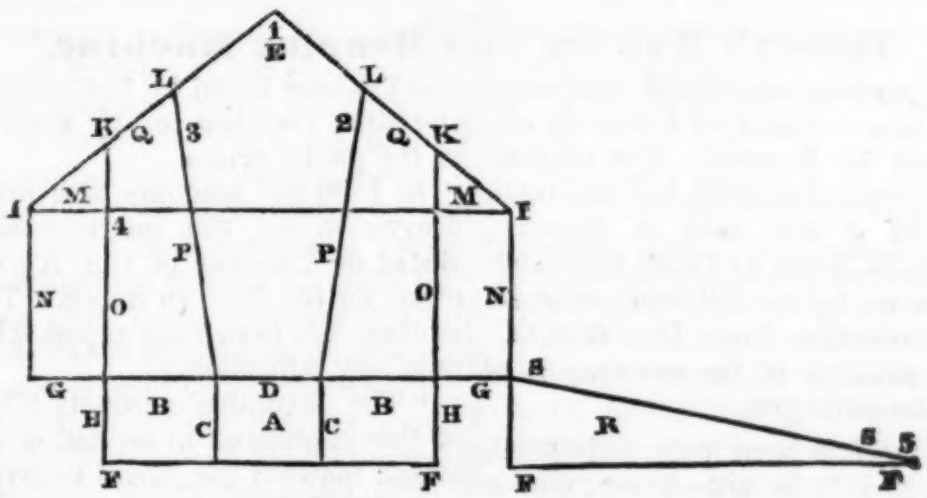

Fig. 33 .

Explanation of figure 33, which is an *elevation or vertical projection* of one end of a barn showing the frame and machinery for unloading a wagon.

A, shows the position of one entry door.—B, B, two stable windows.—C, C, mangers.—D, window above entry door.—E, window in gable end.—F, F, F, F, ground line.—G, G, joists which extend under the floors, the whole width of the building which here is supposed to be fifty six feet, eight of which on each side are supposed to overshoots, or projections beyond the stable walls.—H, H, stable walls.—I, I, plates.—K, K, lower purlins, which also serve as plates.—L, L, upper purlins.—M, M, ties.—N, N, vertical posts under lower plates.—O, O, vertical posts under lower purlins.—P, P, diagonal posts under upper purlins.—Q, Q, rafters.—R, bridge-wall.—S, S, road-way.

1, Shows the position of a block suspended to the summit of two rafters, in which two vertical pullies turn upon one fixed shaft or rafter.

2, Shows the position of another block, suspended to a purline or rafter, this block has one vertical pulley turning with in it.

3, Shows the position of a block also suspended to a purline or rafter, and has three vertical pullies to turn within it upon one fixed shaft.

4, Shows the position of the centre of a wheel and axle.

5, Friction pulley.

P. S. The lower part can be varied to accommodate the sheep, while the upper is constructed as above described.

Chester Co., Pa., Dec. 15, 1837. P.

HAY ON BARN FLOORS.

When hay, particularly clover, is thrown on the floor, much of it, and the most valuable part, too, breaks and crumbles into such small pieces, that the fork will not take them up. In most barns, this is entirely wasted or shoved out into the yard, where but comparatively little of it is picked up by the stock. "I," says an aged farmer, "keep my barn floor as clean as my wife's parlor, and every day shovel into an old sleigh or box, standing by, all the leaves, seeds, and fine parts of the hay. This makes superior feed for my cows: if moistened with water, and a small quantity of bran or meal added, and given about the time of calving, nothing appears more nourishing to them.

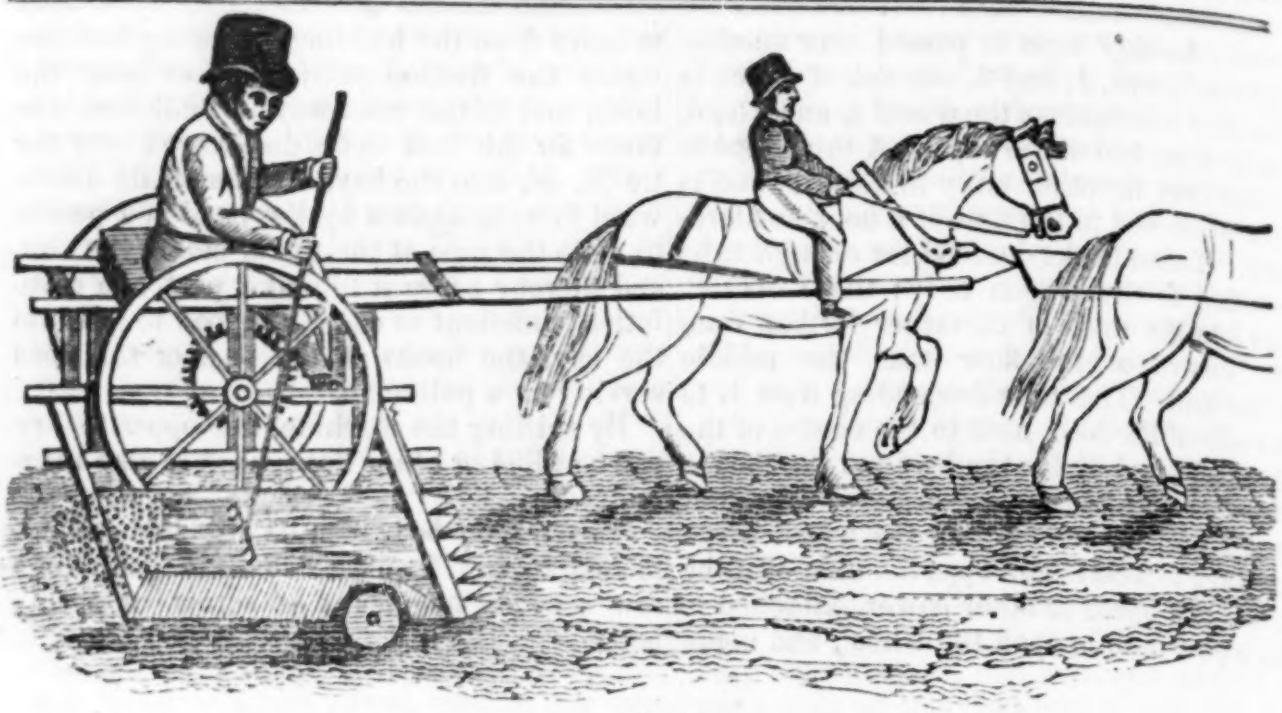

Fig. 34.

Hussey's Mowing and Reaping Machine.

The accompanying engraving represents Mr. Hussey's improvement on a reaping machine, invented by himself. The original machine was invented in 1833, in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1834 it was used in Moscow, Livingston, Co. N. York, and with what success will be shown by the following extracts from a communication from Dr. Wm. C. Dwight, and published in the newspapers of that vicinity the same year.

"The machine has been very fully tried, and I am gratified to be able to say, that it has as fully succeeded; hundreds of farmers from the different towns of this, and the adjoining counties have witnessed its operation, and all have not only expressed their confidence in its success, but their gratification on the perfection of its work. It saves all the grain. To use the language of a gratified looker on, an old and experienced farmer, 'it cheats the hogs. Five acres of heavy wheat on the Genesee flats were harvested in two hours and a half. The horses go at the rate of four or five miles an hour, and when the growth of straw is not too heavy, a fair trot is not too much." In 1835 several machines were used in Illinois and Missouri. The following extracts are from certificates published in the papers of that country.

"In the morning I cut five acres of wheat, in two hours and a half, with two horses at a time and changed. In the evening I cut ten acres of rye in three hours and a half, with four horses at a time and no change; I cut oats too much lodged to be cradled, nearly as clean as if they had been standing."

Stephen Everham.

In Missouri—William J. McIlroy, states that he cut with four horses three acres of grass in one hour, the ground was measured, and the time noted by the company present, the same corroborated by several witnesses in the public prints.

In 1836 the machine was introduced into Maryland, by the instrumentality of the Board of Trustees of the Agricultural Society, for the Eastern Shore. The following is extracted from their report which was extensively published.

"The favorable accounts of the operation of this implement in several of the Western states, induced the Board to invite Mr. Hussey to bring it to Maryland, and submit it to their inspection. It was accordingly exhibited in Oxford, Talbot Co., on the first of July in the presence of the board, and a considerable number of other gentlemen. Its performance may be justly denominated perfect, as it cuts every spear of grain, collects in bunches of the proper size for sheaves, and lays it strait and even for the binders. It was afterwards used on the farm of Tench Tilghman, where one hundred and eighty acres of wheat, oats, and barley were cut with it.

We deem it a simple, strong, and effective machine, and take much pleasure in awarding unanimously, the meritorious inventor of it a handsome pair of silver cups.

Robert H. Goldsborough, S. Stevens, Samuel T. Kennard, Robert Banning, S. Hambleton, sen., N. Goldsborough, E. N. James, L. C. Chamberlain, Martin Goldsborough, Horatio L. Edmonson, Tench Tilghman.

In 1837, Mr. Hussey improved the machine with a design to facilitate its operation on stony land. It was the improved machine, as represented in the engraving, which elicited the high commendation bestowed upon it by Mr. Stonebreaker, Col. Tilghman, and others

as published in the Hagerstown Torchlight, and republished in the 11th No. of this volume. A considerable part of the improvement consists in the general arrangement, while the grand principle in the cutting apparatus remains unchanged. It is the opinion of intelligent farmers, that the improved machine will eventually supersede the original, therefore it is not deemed necessary to describe the original at present. Accordingly the following description will refer to the improved machinery only.

The main body of the machine consists of a frame composed of two sills, connected by two cross rails. In these sills are steped six posts, three in each sill. On the tops of these posts and parallel with the sills, are framed two top rails, which extend at one end, and form shafts for a horse, these shafts are also connected by cross rails, corresponding with the sills. The main axle is hung to the middle posts of the frame in boxes, in which the axle turns, while the ends are square, and fixed in square holes in the hubs of the wheels.—These wheels are not unlike wagon wheels, being three feet and three inches high. This frame follows behind the horses like a horse cart, both the horses and the wheels travel on the stubble, and close to the standing grain. Two narrow planks are placed across the sills, one forward, and the other behind the wheels; these plank extend on one side five or six feet beyond one of the wheels, and are connected by other planks, from within two inches of the wheel to their extreme ends, forming a table or horizontal platform, at a distance from the ground equal to the highest of the stubble.—The ends of the plank which cross the sills are fixed to the sill by a hinge, which permits the extended platform to rise and fall according to the inequality of the ground; the extreme end of the platform being supported by the small roller, seen in the engraving. On the front edge of the platform are firmly fixed a row of strong spikes, pointing forward, and about three inches apart, these spikes are formed of two pieces, one upper and one lower piece, and joined at the points, forming corresponding slits through all the spikes, to accommodate the cutter or saw. The cutter is formed of blades in form of lancets points, fixed side by side on a rod of iron, which gives it the appearance of a saw; this is run through the slits in the spikes and attached to a pitman, moved by a crank, which gives the blades a vibratory motion from one spike to the other. The crank being connected by cog wheels to the main axle, regulates the motion of the cutters according to the speed of the horses. It will be readily understood, that if the wheels are driven close to the standing grain, the platform with the cutting apparatus will extend into the grain, the straw as the machine progresses will be received between the spikes, and be cut off by the vibratory motion of the blades. In the process of cutting, each blade passes between two pieces of iron, so that the straw is held both above and below, the edge that cuts it; the impulse given to the butt of the straw by the forward motion of the machine, incline the heads backwards. The grain by this means accumulates in a heap on the platform, and is pushed off behind with a rake. The performance of this operation is not unlike padling a boat. The binders are placed at equal distance from each other round the field, to bind, and throw the grain out of the track before the machine comes round again. The machine is raised, or lowered, by raising or lowering the boxes of the main axle on the posts to which they are attached. One horse is sufficient in light grain, yet two are preferable in all cases, on account of the facility of turning by the power of the head horse, as well as for light draught when speed is required.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Remarks upon the Application of Lime, to prevent the waste of Water in Canals or other Water courses.

Where the sides and bottom of a canal or other water course, is of so porous a texture, as to be incapable of holding water, they may be improved by the use of lime slacking within the subterranean channels. The expansion of the lime during the process makes the bottom and sides sufficiently solid to hold water. The process is merely to place pulverized unslacked lime in the bottom or sides of the canal in the immediate vicinity of the leakage, either upon dry earth or upon plank confined by stones placed upon them, or by stakes driven diagonally over the edges of the plank into the earth, and then filling a section of the canal or water course, as rapidly as possibly, so that the water will convey the lime into the subterranean channals, before it is expanded to the full extent. If one operation be insufficient to complete the work, the process is to be repeated as often as may be necessary.

P. S. I should be much pleased if some one in a situation to do so, would make experiments with unslacked pulverized lime, forced by a powerful press or by pounding within the interstices, between the different fibres of seasoned wood, before being used for fence posts, pavements, or rail road sills, and hereafter inform the readers of the *Cabinet* the result, as a guard against decay and the effect when used, between wood brick or stone, to give stability to pavements.

Agriculture is the nursery of patriotism.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Smearing Sheep.

It is probably not known to many of the readers of the Cabinet, that in Scotland—a leading sheep country, Sheep are *smeared* or coated with a mixture of tar and grease, late in the fall, in order to destroy the lice, ticks, &c. which infest them and to act as an additional protection during winter. Equal parts by measure, of good Virginia tar and of Palm oil or butter are melted together—the wool is laid open by the hand along the back and along each side at the turn of the back, and a thin strip of the mixture nearly cold, laid in each opening—probably the size of a large hen egg, to each sheep. The grease neutralizes the tar, so that it in no way, injures the wool but washes out clean, at washing time, without any difficulty. Immediately after the application, the wool becomes soft and oily, and grows rapidly, and the sheep being freed from the vermin that annoy them so much, take on flesh better. In the lowlands, where they are not so much exposed, and are not generally furnished with sheds, they are *poured*, that is, a mixture of spirits of tar, tobacco juice, a decoction of broom (Scottice, *broom broo'*) and sulphur birum is poured over them, parting the wool as in smearing.

I do not know how long it is since *smearing* and *pouring* were first adopted in Scotland, but one or the other is now considered indispensable. There is not a doubt but smearing would be found equally advantageous here, where sheep suffer so much from the severity of the winter weather, particularly if at all exposed to the wet. The increase in the yield of wool pays the expense, leaving the improved health and condition of the sheep, as a profit to the farmer. I shall try it by and by, and give you the result.

T. A., Jun.

Vermillion, Co. Indiana, Feb. 1, 1838.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Live Fences.—No. 5.

In my last communication upon this subject, I stated that if I should discover any plant that answers the purpose better than the *Washington Thorn*, (Crataegus Populifolio) I might perhaps be able to make a communication on the subject.

Since that time I have discovered some fences composed of this plant, which seem to be in a state of decay and have been informed by those who have better opportunities for personal observation, perhaps than myself, that in many situations, particularly in soils composed principally of clay or in that of red sand stone, mixed with clay it does not generally answer so well as some other kinds of thorn. I have also been informed, that the principal cause of death in this plant is from injury produced from a fly, which deposits an egg or nit in the most tender parts of the branch, the place of deposit becomes enlarged and dies the next season; the following process is recommended as a remedy or preventive, viz:—Instead of trimming the hedge at or near the termination of each annual growth, this process is performed at the close of winter and every part which is thus cut off is immediately burned. The reasons which are given for this are, viz.—The egg or nit, will be deposited near the ends of the respective branches in the most tender part which can be removed and burned at the close of winter, so as to prevent injury to the plant either from frost or the fly, whereas trimming at the beginning of winter, might expose the branches thus trimmed to the severe frost of winter, so as to be injured by it; and where they are trimmed at or near the termination of each annual growth, the egg or nit will afterwards be deposited in the growth of a previous year, and which cannot be removed without diminishing the height and strength of the fence.

Immediately after the last frost of each winter will, according to this view of the subject, be the proper time to trim the fence and burn the parts which are cut off.

From all the information, I at present possess upon the subject, I would say as a general rule, that persons desirous of cultivating plants for *live fences* should pay particular attention, and fix upon (or select) such kind as observation may show to be best fitted for the particular kind of soil where the fence is to be placed.

First upon the list, probably, may be placed the different kinds of Thorn, which are natives of the vicinity.—Plants which produce sprouts from their roots in large quantities when cut or broken by the plough, are unfit for the purpose in cultivated lands; therefore I should doubt the propriety of using the Locust Tree (which has been recommended) for such situations; yet in other situations, particularly where the fence will be in the shade of trees. I suppose this plant and perhaps several others would be preferable to the Thorn; but of this I cannot speak with certainty; because, I have not seen any one of them in such situations, but only judge from the relative rapidity of growth, and other properties.

In regard to the treatment of the Thorn, I know of no better plan than that stated in my former communications upon the subject, (see pages 131, 146, 177, & 201, of the first volume of the Farmers' Cabinet.) The seeds

of some kinds are said to require a more powerful action of frost upon them than the kind there described, and that some of the seed require a frost of a second winter, in the latitude and climate of Pennsylvania to prepare them for growing. A portion grows the first year, and another portion after lying in the ground one year, and undergoing the process of two winters' freezing, will also grow. Perhaps all might be made to grow the first spring, if the seed were submitted to an artificial freezing process much more intense than that from the natural temperature of the climate.

If, I should hereafter learn any thing further relative to cultivating materials for *live fences*, or any process to prevent the destruction of them deserving a place in the Cabinet, I intend to forward the same for publication, and hope others will also forward any information they may possess on the subject.

Chester Co. Pa. Jan. 12, 1838.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet.

Wheat vs. Cheat.

McFarlane's, P. O Allegheny Co. Pa.
Jan. 17, 1838.

Dear Sir:—In page 164, Vol. 2, No. 11. of the Farmers' Cabinet, there is an inquiry, "can wheat be transformed into cheat!" I agree with Mr. Featherstonhaugh, that it *can;* Dr. Darlington seems to be of a different opinion, and rather ridicules the idea; as I am not willing to go into a discussion on the laws of nature (nor am I capable) with that gentleman, who no doubt has investigated the matter, I will only state one fact that occured with myself, and others can draw their own conclusions.

I think it was in the year 1819 or 20, that I prepared a piece of ground for wheat, on what we call second bottom, of the Monongahela River, a rich sandy loom, giving it a good dressing of manure, viz., lime, stable, and barn-yard, &c. It was put on separately, in different sections of the field; my seed was of good quality—white smooth chaff, there were a few grains of cheat and also cockle in it; to be particular to have clean seed, I took it to a neighboring mill and put it twice through a rolling screen. The quantity sown was six bushels, and put in about the last of September. The season was favorable and promised to my view an abundant crop; it grew very rank and in the month of May, I flattered myself that I was going to have an extraordinary yield. But it was all visionary; when it began to shoot, I could not find an ear of wheat in a rod. I believe, had I plucked all the ears of the six bushels sown, they would not have produced one gallon of wheat. It was perfect cheat, and was from four to five feet in height. I cut it about the middle of June, and it made excellent hay.

Your's respectfully,
R. C. Mc FARLANE.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet.

Can Wheat be transformed into Cheat?

Dear Sir:—I have carefully read the Farmers' Cabinet for which I subscribed some time since, and find that some of your correspondents—farmers I presume, deny that wheat will, or can be transformed into cheat. I have had more or less experience in farming for upwards of fifty years, and from personal observations was led to believe, long since, that some grain can and will be tranformed into cheat, but the experience of last summer confirmed me in this opinion. The circumstances were briefly these.—In the spring of 1836, I obtained about half a pint of (skinless) oats; the grain had no husk like the common kind; they were sown in a part of my garden, which I had owned, and planted with different kinds of vegetables for nearly forty years; no grain having been sowed within a quarter of a mile, or housed or stacked near it. The oats grew finely until nearly ripe, when they were beaten to the ground by a heavy shower of rain, I did not take the trouble to cut them, but on examining the heads they proved to be the same kind as were sown. In the fall, the seed left on the ground came up, but I expected they would perish in the winter—in the spring, however, they put forth and grew finely, and when the heads came out, not a single grain could be found, but as fine and flourishing cheat as I had ever examined. It came up last fall again, and at this time has a fine appearance. It shall not be disturbed, and we shall see what it will turn to next summer. Now I should like to know how it came to be all oats the first year, and cheat the next, if grain must always produce the same kind as that sown. Perhaps Dr. Darlington, or some other gentleman skilled in these matters, can impart the desired information.

G. W.

Martinsburgh, Va. Jan. 18, 1838.

P. S. If you sow clean flax seed on new cleared ground, why does the greater part turn to what is generally called yellow seed, wherever brush heaps have been burned? This I have noticed in my own as well as in other fields.

No farmer ought to undertake to cultivate more land than he can stock, and manage to advantage. It is better to till twenty acres well, than one hundred in a slovenly manner.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Peach Trees preserved by the application of Tar.

The following described process, is said to be one of the very best to preserve peach trees, it is considered a complete protection, against the attack of the peach fly and worm upon the body of the Tree, immediately above the surface of the ground, and beneath as far as to the roots; and, I see no reason why it should not, also, be a protection to the whole body of the tree, and the large branches and other parts, wherever gum is discovered to be issuing. It may possibly be useful when applied to other trees. The process is as follows, viz.—In the months of May and September, of each year remove the earth from the body of the tree as far as the roots, and apply a coat of tar, and immediately place fresh earth around, (to press against the tar) the earth is made to extend as high as that which had previously been removed; the application should commence before the tree is one year old. Perhaps immediately above the earth, a few inches high, and over this, sharp sand to the height of a few inches more would be found useful.* R.

Chester County, Pa. January 23, 1838.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Winter Wheat Sown in Spring.

J. Libby—Dear Sir:—The Cultivator of December contains the result of an experiment made at Snow Hill, Maryland, of sowing winter wheat in spring. From the statement it appears that the result was highly satisfactory. On, or about the first of March last, about a bushel of the common red chaff, winter wheat was sown, it "sprung up, grew luxuriantly, and came to perfection about seven to ten days later than usual; when such grain is seeded in the fall, say September or October." The wheat sown, (one bushel) produced ten, and according to the testimony of the correspondent of the Cultivator, Geo. Hudson, the grain was very fine. The farm lies open to the Atlantic, soil rather poor and sandy. On a kind soil the yield would probably, have been much greater. Please give publicity to this fact as it may be of service to many of your readers, and thereby oblige a subscriber.

S. W. Williams.

[In connection with this subject we would call the attention of our readers to a "suggestion," in the first volume of the Cabinet, page 374. It is there stated, and on high authority, that the sowing of winter wheat in spring, has been partially adopted, with the happiest results in some parts of Tennessee. For the benefit of our readers, and with the hope that some of them may make the experiment, and communicate the result, we re-copy the article. It is as follows: in winter (the earlier the better, we presume) the seed grain is put into casks, and sufficient water added to soak and cover it. It is then exposed so that the water become frozen, and is kept in this state as far as practicable until the soil is fit for its reception in the spring. It is a well known and established fact, that the operation of frost upon the seed of winter grain has the same effect as if it was sown in autumn.—As wheat and rye sown at the setting in of winter will grow and mature. The advantages which are experienced from sowing in the spring, are, 1st. that the grain is not subject to be winter killed; 2d, it escapes the Hessian fly in autumn, and possibly it may escape it in the spring; 3d, the ground being fresh stirred for spring sowing, the growth will be more vigorous; and 4th, as it will come into ear late, there is at least a probability that it may escape the grain worm. The advantages are so manifest, that the experiment is worth a trial. We hope that many of our subscribers may be induced to try it on a small scale, say, by sowing from a peck to a bushel of the grain prepared in the above described manner.]

GRAIN WORM.

Mr. Holmes:—All statements relative to the injury the Grain Worm or Weevil, so called, does to wheat—the time when done, and how prevented,—the several metamorphoses of the insect, &c. &c. should be well authenticated, and writers should be very careful that they give nothing but *facts*, least the interest of the Farmer be thereby prejudiced.

I will suggest one idea on the subject which I have learned from farmers who have lived where the worm has long done injury, which is, that wheat sown previous to the 20th of April, or after the 20th of May, escapes their ravages; the one, (if I may so express it,) gets before them, and the other comes after them. The injury is uniformly done in a short time.—*Maine Farmer.*

A wise government will not be slow in fostering the agricultural interest.

* The sand can be preserved at a uniform height, by four boards nailed together in a vertical position around the tree, so as to form a box without top or bottom. This may be placed on the ground with each side equi-distant from the tree, and within five or six inches of it.

Ashes is placed within this box, to the height of a few inches, and afterwards sand upon the ashes to the height of a few inches more. The box is suspended to the branches of the tree during the winter season, and fresh ashes and sand added in the spring annually, as aforesaid.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Brief Remarks by a plain Farmer.—No. 1.

There is no calling, the proper management of which is more generally misunderstood than that of *farming*; while at the same time there is no business in which a man can engage, more dignified, that will insure as much real comfort and true independence, and afford greater certainty of profitable returns than agriculture. I admit that no man can by farming, whatever may be the price of agricultural produce, become suddenly *rich*. An idea of this kind should never enter the head of any farmer,—but his gains are nevertheless, "*sure* and *certain*;" that is, if his affairs are promptly and judiciously managed. I hope, now that the dignity of the calling is acknowledged, and the certainty of profitable returns made manifest, that more attention will be paid by farmers to their true interests, and that instead of making their sons professional gentlemen, and sending them to our large towns and cities, to become merchants and traders, (I say nothing of the thousands who are ruined by this course,) bring them up at home,—let them be well instructed both *practically* and *theoretically* in all that appertains to agricultural knowledge;—let them be fully impressed with its importance—in a word let them be made *practical Farmers*, tillers of the soil,—men who are not above their calling, for it is one of which no man should be ashamed; their individual happiness will be promoted and the interests of the country advanced;—we shall not have so many lean doctors of medicine, briefless lawyers, or ruined merchants and tradesmen. I will now proceed to give a few observations which may possibly be of service to some of your readers. I wish to be understood as not laying claim to *originality*, but shall avail myself freely of the *experience* and *advice* of agricultural writers. In Sir JOHN SINCLAIRS' Code of Agriculture, published in Hartford in 1818, we have an interesting paper on the most

ESSENTIAL MEANS FOR CARRYING ON THE IMPROVEMENT AND CULTIVATION OF A FARM.

Industry, prudence and economy, are essential to insure success in any business whatever. A regular *system* is also indispensably necessary, and in none, more so, than in that of farming. *Capital*, to a sufficient amount is also a very desirable object, though not so particularly requisite here were land is comparatively cheap, as in the old country, England for instance, where the farmer pays annualy in rents, onorous taxes, and odious tithes as much per acre, as he need here pay in this favored country for the land itself. Still, capital, to a certain extent, in this country is not only desirable but even necessary; not merely for stocking a farm, but where there is any "deficiency in respect to this important particular, the farmer cannot derive sufficient profit from his exertions, for he may often be obliged to dispose of his crops at an under value, to procure ready money; or he may be prevented purchasing the articles he may require, though a favorable opportunity may present itself."* A disposition too general among farmers is that of taking *large farms*, without having the means of having them properly stocked, and thoroughly cultivated,—capital is too often, invested almost wholly in the land itself. This is a radical error. It makes many a person *poor upon a large farm*, who might live in comfort, and acquire property upon a *small one*.† Every tenant in order to be secure, must have a surplus on which to rest, beyond the ordinary expenses of labor, to meet any contingency which may occur. He who farms within his capital is thereby enabled to avail himself of any opportunity of purchasing to advantage; while he is not compelled, if the markets are low, to sell with loss. FRANKLIN has justly observed, that there is a difference of ten per cent., between "*Will you sell*, and *Will you buy*?"—and it is want of attention to this well-founded axiom, that prevents the farmer from being empowered to wait for the question "*Will you sell*?" The farmer is a sturdy bargainer, but if his customer be aware that a sale is absolutely necessary to the affairs of his competitor, the buyer is sure to carry his point. The credit, the show of a little capital, confers an advantage on the farmer in these contests, and can alone put him upon a level with his antagonist. ‡

Economy and prudence are essential to success. JUDGE PETERS, in his valuable "Notices to a young Farmer," published some years since by the Philadelphia Society, for Promoting Agriculture, says:—"Do not commence with erecting COSTLY BUILDINGS; but apply your time, efforts, and pecuniary means to your farm." Want of calculation in this respect has been the ruin of many.—Comfort and convenience must be studied. If compelled to sell, a poor farm must be parted with at a low price, however magnificent and costly the buildings. A small farm well stocked, and convenient buildings,—who can, who would desire more! The subject of *farm accounts* will be taken up in my next, if you see fit to publish the present article.—

* St. Clairs' Code, page 36.

† Ib. 37.

‡ Reports of Select Farms, Vol. 1, page 20.

With the best wishes for the prosperity of your valuable Journal.

I remain your friend,

SAMUEL W. SMITH.

Duchess Co., N Y., Jan. 17th, 1838.

Society for Promoting Agriculture.

At a meeting of the PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING AGRICULTURE, held at the Philosophical Hall, on the 23d of January, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:

President—NICHOLAS BIDDLE.

Vice Presidents—Dr. JAMES MEASE, JOSEPH CLOUD.

Curators—CHARLES ROBERTS, ROBERT A. PARISH.

Treasurer—A. S. ROBERTS.

Secretary—KENDERTON SMITH.

COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE—R. A. A. PARISH, RICHARD PETERS.

On motion of CHARLES ROBERTS, it was *Resolved*, That all communications on Agricultural subjects, approved by the Society, be published in the Farmers' Cabinet.

☞The meetings of the "Agricultural Society," will be held on the 3d Wednesday of every month, at 11 o'clock, in the rooms of the Philosophical Society, in Fifth, below Chesnut Street. Applications for membership may be made to either of the above named officers, or at the Office of the Farmers' Cabinet, No. 45 North Sixth above Arch Street.

For the Cabinet.

The Society of St. George's and Appoquinimink hundreds for the Promotion of Agriculture.

Pursuant to adjournment, a meeting was held at Cantwell's Bridge, Del., on Monday, the 1st day of Jan. 1838, for the purpose of forming an Agricultural Association. A constitution having been presented by the committee appointed for that purpose, at a previous meeting, was adopted, after which a committee was appointed to nominate officers for the Society, which reported the following named gentlemen, who were duly elected officers for the ensuing year, viz.—Gen. Richard Mansfield, *President;* A. R. Pennington, and A. Snow Naudain, *Vice Presidents ;* Benjamin Gibbs, *Recording Secretary;* Jas. S. Naudain, *Corresponding Secretary ;* Daniel Corbit, *Treasurer; Directors* J. M. Smith, J. M. Woods, G. W. Karsher, Joshua Clayton, Robert Cochran and Charles Tatman.

On motion, it was ordered that the above proceedings be published in the newspapers of the county, and in the Farmers' Cabinet.

DANIEL CORBIT, Chairman.

P. S. NAUDAIN, Secretary.

Horticultural Society.

The monthly meeting of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, was held on Tuesday the 16th January, in the room under the Atheneum.

The Committee on Plants and Flowers awarded the premium for the best display of Plants in pots to Robert Buist ; who exhibited Astrahea Wallichii, Acacia thegonocarpa, Verbena Tweediana, Daphne odorata, and D. Hybrida, Bletia Tankervillia, Eucomis Undulta, 2 Erica Mediterranea, Camellia Japonica flora pleno Striata, C. alba, C. Cliveana, C. Decora, C. Chandelerii, C. Derbyana, C. Lady Humes Blush, C. Paniflora, C. Speciosa, C. insignis, C. pompone, Goodyera discolor, and Poinsetii pulcherrima.

The premium for the best bouquet to Robert Kilvington, gardener to Wm. Loyd.

The Committee on Vegetables awarded the premium to William Chalmers, sen., gardener to Mrs. Stolt, for the best display of Vegetables that evening, having exhibited along with various other articles a basket of new potatoes, which is very unusual at this season.

William Graham, gardener to the Almshouse, Blockley, exhibited some fine bunches of asparagus.

William Hobson, gardener, Kingsessing exhibited a plate of very fine mushrooms.

Mrs. Hibbert exhibited two very fine plants of Azaleo Indicaalba and purpurea.

Col. R. Carr, exhibited a bonnet made by the Florida Indian Women of the fibres of the Squash. *

The display of plants was very fine especially the Cawellias, many of them were new, never having flowered in the country before.

The Vegetables were good considering the season, the Potatoes, the Asparagus, and Mushrooms, were unusual at the season, and do great honor to their predecessors. The Society is monthly increasing in numbers, and is getting more and more interesting every month from the laudable ambition of our gardeners and amateurs.

G. WATSON, Record. Sec.

Philadelphia, Jan. 22, 1838.

SPRING WHEAT.—We have been requested by a gentleman, who has taken great pains to introduce the genuine Italian Spring Wheat in this region, to state that a different article, (Italian Winter Wheat,) is offered and sold in various places, at a very high rate, as the Italian Spring Wheat. Those interested will therefore be on their guard.

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*An ingenious delicate summer bonnet.

Post Masters' Notice.

Post Masters are hereby authorized and respectfully requested to act as agents for the Farmers' Cabinet, in their several neighborhoods. They have it in their power to benefit the community essentially by disseminating Agricultural Knowledge, and this can be done in no way so readily and successfully as by the circulation of agricultural papers.—These papers being afforded at a low price, and embodying the experience of intelligent and practical farmers, the result of experiments, &c., are worthy of universal patronage. We return our thanks to those Post Masters who have heretofore acted as agents—and especially to those who have occasionally furnished us with valuable facts for publication; we hope their number may be greatly enlarged the present year.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Split Hoofs.

Horses being more liable at this season of the year, when traveling over rough and frozen clods, to get their hoofs split, I send you the following description and diagram of a shoe, which has been found preeminently useful in effecting cures. The construction of this shoe is remarkably simple. It consists only, in addition to the common shoe, of a bar across the hinder part, on the under side, immediately before the corks.

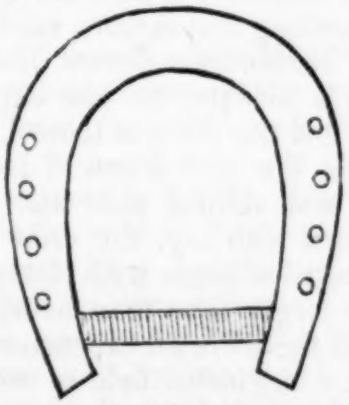

Fig. 35.

In the cure of the Split Hoof, it is necessary that the shoe be kept firmly fastened on. The edges of the crack, should be pared down a little to prevent them from rubbing together, and a little pitch should be poured in to keep out the dirt.

In the bandaging of hoofs, as was formerly the practice, if the band is drawn sufficiently tight to hold the hoof together, and prevent its moving, it almost invariably deadens the hoof, so as to entirely prevent its cure. But by the above simple means, cures have been effected after bandaging entirely failed. As the cure proceeds from the hoof growing out sound from the upper side; it necessarily requires a considerable length of time for its performance.

A GERMAN.

Chester County, Jan. 17th, 1838.

Smut in Wheat.

That the prescription of brine and lime, or chamber ley and lime, will answer the end designed of preventing smut, we do not doubt; for the practice here recommended has obtained in Western New York for more than twenty years, and we do not recollect a single instance in which it has failed where properly conducted. From whence the practice originated we know not; but in this state it was first adopted on the eastern shore of the Cayuga Lake, and that region had, for a long time, the reputation of producing the finest wheat in the State; and it was extensively purchased for seed in other but less favorable districts. For a number of years past, smut has hardly been heard of, and seemed eradicated; and in consequence of this the preparation of seed wheat by liming has fallen into disuse. It must be again adopted, where seed perfectly pure cannot be obtained, and even in such cases its use is safe, as it can possibly do no harm. It was at one time supposed by many farmers, that gypsum would answer the purpose of lime, for drying the brined wheat, and preventing smut, and in some cases was substituted for it. The result in the most of these instances, was, the evil appeared aggravated in a ten-fold degree. We have seen an experiment of this kind tried, that to us, was perfectly conclusive. A field was sown with wheat all brined, and with the exception of that required for a few lands, all thoroughly limed.—The remainder was dried in plaster instead of lime, and sown the same day with that on which lime had been used. At the time of harvesting the line between the two kinds was distinctly marked, no smut being found on the part that was limed, while the plastered part was almost worthless. Spring wheat, it has been found by experience, is more apt to be smutty, than that sown in the fall, and hence the greater necessity of properly guarding against the disease. As many are intending to cultivate this grain to considerable extent another year, the propriety of paying particular attention to this subject is evident, that the character of this region for wheat and flour, may not suffer. Whether in autumn or spring, we advise our farmers to be very careful as to what wheat they sow, and if there is the least danger of infection to apply the brine and lime at once.—*Genessee Farmer.*

Choose those animals or vegetables to propagate from, that possess the properties you wish to the greatest perfection.

Be not above your profession, and always consider it as the first that any man can follow.

On Tilling Ground.

"With timely care I'll sow my little field,
And plant my orchard with its master's hand,
Nor blush to spread the hay, the hook to wield,
Or range the sheaves along the sunny land."

The labors of the field rank first in point of utility. To these all classes of human beings from the king on the throne to the peasant in the cottage are indebted for the necessaries of life. They also lay the surest foundation for national independence and wealth. Nor is agricultural labor properly considered less honorable than it is necessary and useful. Adam in innocency was a gardener, and his fair Eve assisted him in that occupation. Vulcan the blacksmith, had divine honors paid to his memory, for forging tools of husbandry; as also Bacchus for his skill in raising the vine and expressing its juice: and Ceres a notable housewife of old, for her skill in making bread. Cincinnatus was taken from the plough to be general of the Roman armies, and dictator over the commonwealth, and as soon as his country could dispense with his services, he contentedly returned to his plough again. Diocle-sian voluntarily resigned the government of the Roman empire, to follow the occupation of agriculture, and declared from experience, that in point of real happiness, he had gained much by the exchange. Gideon marched from his threshing floor to deliver Israel, as a general in chief. Elisha was ploughing when he received his sacred commission as a prophet of the Lord.

Our great and good Washington, and our venerable Lincoln, were practical farmers; the latter, if I have been rightly informed, used before the revolution to drive his own team, and labor with his own hands.

The pursuit of agriculture, with diligence and prudence seldom fails yielding, if not wealth, a moderate independence. For the farmer who is not in debt, and the produce of his farm is sufficient with industry and frugality to support his family, is really as independent in his circumstances as though he were worth a million.

This calling is the least dependent of any, and the least exposed to fatal accidents, affords on the whole the greatest sum of contentment. Gilbert Burns, of Scotland, himself a laboring farmer, remarks in a letter written in the year 1800: "I have always been of opinion, that if a man bred to the habits of a farmer's life, who possesses a farm of good soil on such terms as enables him to pay all demands, is not happy, he ought to look somewhere else than to his situation for the cause of his uneasiness." This Mr. Burns, a man of superior cast of understanding, was a small farmer on *lease lands*:—and if such a situation afford contentment and happiness to one of the first rate sense, much more might a country farm in our country free from incumbrances, and belonging exclusively to the occupier. A farmer in those circumstances, did he truly estimate his lot in life, would see a hundred reasons for gratitude to one of complaint.

A practical farmer whose livelihood depends on his calling—should make it the pinnacle of worldly ambition to excel in it. If he neglects his farm for almost every thing else, he is generally a miser both in interest and credit.—Solomon, the wisest observer of men, tells us of his disgust at the sight of a slovenly farmer. "I went by the field of the slothful—and lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles covered the face thereof and the stone wall was broken down." Owner where art thou? Perhaps dozing away thy time in slumber and sloth; or spending it at the tavern; or perhaps dreaming of promotion, or engaged in the business of some petty office. Better mind thy own proper business; else "shall thy property come as one that traveleth, and thy want as an armed man." A farmer on the other hand, who keeps his lands and stock in excellent order need not be ashamed even were Solomon, himself passing by. Every passing traveler no sooner casts his eyes over such a farm than he honors the proprietor in his heart. The proprietor moreover is sure to receive for his pains something that is more solid than plain honor—a comfortable, decent livelihood, for which he is indebted to him only whose is the earth and the fullness thereof.

It is not the abundance of land, but the thorough and skillful cultivator of it, that fills the barn with hay, the cribs with corn, and the mansion house with plenty. For one to crave a larger farm than he can cultivate to profit, is therefore an expensive folly; for whatever a neglected field is worth, the interest of the capital together with the yearly taxes, will at length eat the field up.

If a farmer neglects his farm, his farm will neglect him. The husbandman must first labor else he partakes not of the fruit. He must be vigilant else carelessness will waste and lose what industry gains. He must be economical and frugal else his outgoes exceeding his income, he is sure finally to come out of the little end of the horn. He must not feel above his business, else he will find himself below it. He must always mind to do every thing in its season, else he will have double work and half crops. Finally, he must study agriculture as a practical science, and make use of the means in his power to increase; else will he neither shine in his calling nor reap the profits from it, which he might and which others actually do.

Farmers venerate the hoe, the scythe and the sickle. If you exchange the implements of husbandry for means of livelihood, you venture where there are several blanks to a prize! "Look over your lands, and see what parts may be cultivated to more advantage—how you can raise more grain and flax, keep more cows and sheep; fat more cattle—sell more beef and pork, and other articles of produce. Study agriculture; carry it to the greatest perfection. It is the basis of our wealth, of manufactures and commerce.

The Grain Worm.

THIRTY DOLLARS PREMIUM.

"Wheat is, in many parts of the country subject to injury from an insect or worm, whose appearance is comparatively recent, and whose habits are not well ascertained. He is making dreadful havoc in the wheat regions, producing in many cases, an entire destruction of extensive fields of the most promising appearance, and has advanced at the rate of about forty miles a year. The same insect, it is believed, has attacked barley, rye, and oats, with alarming success. The cultivation of barley has on this account been abandoned in some parts of this State, (Massachusetts) and so has the cultivation of wheat in what have heretofore been deemed some of the most productive wheat regions in New York."

The above is from the Rev. Henry Colman. Other writers have spoken of the great ravages of this insect, and thousands of farmers have sowed in hope and rejoicing in the promise of their grain fields, but in harvest, instead of a rich reward for their industry, they have received nothing. Agricultural Societies have solicited the best information on this subject, and many experiments have been tried, and remedies recommended, but none have been made known, on which farmers confidently rely. The insects have extended their ravages far and wide, and whole districts of many hundred thousand acres of the most promising grain have been destroyed.

This subject is of the highest importance, not only to farmers, but to the whole community, and further experiments are necessary, in order, if possible, that a perfect preventative or security may be discovered, as it would be of incalculable worth to the country, and for the purpose of stimulating to fresh inquiries, and calling forth the best information that can possibly be obtained on this subject, we hereby offer a premium of THIRTY DOLLARS to ANY PERSON who shall produce in writing, for publication in the Yankee Farmer, the most satisfactory history of this insect, describing minutely its habits, its mode of operation, and the surest remedy against its depredations.

The premium will be awarded by the decision of three eminent and experienced agriculturists. Communications on this subject may be addressed to CHARLES P. BOSSON, Publisher, North Market Street, Boston, Mass., or S. W. COLE, Publisher, Middle Street, Portland, Me.—*Yankee Farmer.*

Insectivorous Birds.

These are to the farmer and the gardener of great value. They were designed by the Creator to check the too great increase of insects, and no farmer ought to suffer them to be wantonly destroyed on his premises. The number of insects destroyed by the robin, swallow, sparrow, mock-bird, and other small birds, is astonishing. One little family will destroy several hundred in a single day. Some little time since a pair of small birds built a nest on a lilac, which grew close to one of my windows. In the time of incubation there was a long and severe storm, and strong wind. The eggs were in danger of being blown overboard by the writhing of the bush. Conscious of this, the female kept on the bush to prevent any accident which might follow on her leaving it, to collect food. Her mate, like a good provider, was busily engaged during the day in collecting food, (insects,) which he carried to his companion, and which she received of him with apparent affection. This circumstance excited particular attention, and of course this little society was closely observed. In a short time the eggs hatched, but the roughness of the weather, or the tenderness of the brood, prevented the female from leaving her young. During this time, the male, with surprising industry, brought small insects, in the larva state, to the nest, but was not allowed to feed the nestlings. The female received the food and divided it among her little charge. When the young gained sufficient strength, the male was permitted to feed them, and from this time both parents were mutually and incessantly employed in collecting small insects from every quarter, and on a moderate calculation to the number of about 700 in a day.

One cause of the increase of many insects so destructive to vegetation, is the decrease of these little friends to the agriculturist.—Should a few of them innocently trespass on the farmer, to the amount of a few cents, let him remember that he is greatly indebted to them for services rendered, and not to wage a war of extermination.

They are not merely useful in destroying insects—for they call the farmer and the gardener to his business, cause the groves to resound with music, and usher in the morning with melodious praise.

Remarks on the General Principles of Husbandry.

1. Whatever may be the nature of your soil, and situation of your farm, remember, that there is no soil so good, but it may be exhausted, and ruined by bad tillage, and that there is none so bad, that cannot be rendered fertile by good tillage, even barren heath, if it can be ploughed, and swarded.

2. The true art of husbandry consists in suffering no crop to grow upon your land, that will so far exhaust your soil, as to lessen the value of your succeeding crop, whatever profit such a crop may afford you.

3. To avoid this, suffer no one crop to grow two years successively, upon the same piece of ground, excepting grass, and buck-wheat, without the fertilizing aid of rich manures to support the strength of the soil; and even then, a change of crops will generally do best, excepting onions, carrots, and hemp.

4. Every plant derives from the earth for its growth, such properties as are peculiar to itself; this plant, when followed successively for two or more years upon the same ground, will exhaust the soil of those properties peculiar to itself, without lessening its powers to produce some other plants; this fact is most striking in the article of flax, which will not bear to be repeated oftener than once in seven years, and is common to all crops, with the exception of those noticed as above.

5. To avoid this evil, arrange your farm into such divisions as will enable you to improve all the variety of crops your lands may require, in such regular succession, as to form a routine of 5, 6, or 7 years, according to the nature, quality and situation of your farm.

6. This method will make poor land good, and good better. Try and see.

Silk Culture.

Much allowance is to be made for the coloring given by enthusiastic men, warmly engaged in a new and untried pursuit; but after all deduction, facts enough have been presented to show conclusively that the silk business is capable of being made exceedingly profitable. And perhaps the most important fact of all is, that the culture has not only maintained its ground, but has been advancing in Connecticut for many years, and that under every disadvantage of imperfect machinery and want of capital, it has brought a far greater amount of money into a small town possessing no great natural advantages, than was ever realized for any one article of produce, from a similar extent of the most fertile bottom lands on the Connecticut.

Pruning.

Cut and set all such fruit as you wish to propagate by the slip; such as currants, gooseberries, raspberries, &c. Plant out such fruit trees as you wish to remove, together with your grape-vines, particularly such as you have propagated from your standing vines. Prune your currants, goosberries, raspberries, &c. remove all dead stalks, and support your bushes by frames.

Hollow Horn.—The disease called hollow horn, may be prevented it is said, if the following precautionary plan be adopted and adheared to:—once a fortnight pour a teaspoonful of spirits of turpentine in the *cavity* or *cup*, just behind the horns of *neat* cattle.

Feeding Animals with Hay.

A great loss is frequently sustained by feeding animals not sufficiently often, and giving them too large quantities at a time. In this way, by having a great pile of fodder for a long time before them, which is rendered more and more foul and offensive by their constantly breathing upon it while rooting it over and over, it is imperfectly eaten and a large part perhaps wasted. To prevent this, hay should be given frequently and in small quantities, especially when placed in racks and mangers, as it should always be when fed out. For where hay is scattered over the ground, a greater or less quantity is always wasted; and if the ground be at all muddy, half of it, at least, is almost sure to be trodden under foot and spoiled.

J. J. T.

Knowledge is Power.—In no department is Bacon's celebrated maxim "knowledge is power" more applicable than in Agriculture. Hence no farmer can be counted skilful in his profession, who does not avail himself of the information to be derived from the experience of others in husbandry, by the perusal of books that have been written on the subject. It is absurd to imagine that the communication of knowledge by printing, which has promoted the advancement of every other art, should be of no use in Agriculture.—*Peters.*

If you separate science from agriculture, you rob a nation of its principal jewel.

A large farm, without skill, capital and industry is a plague to its owner. It is like self righteousness, the more you have of it the worse you are off.

Spring Wheat is more liable to Smut than the red-chaff.

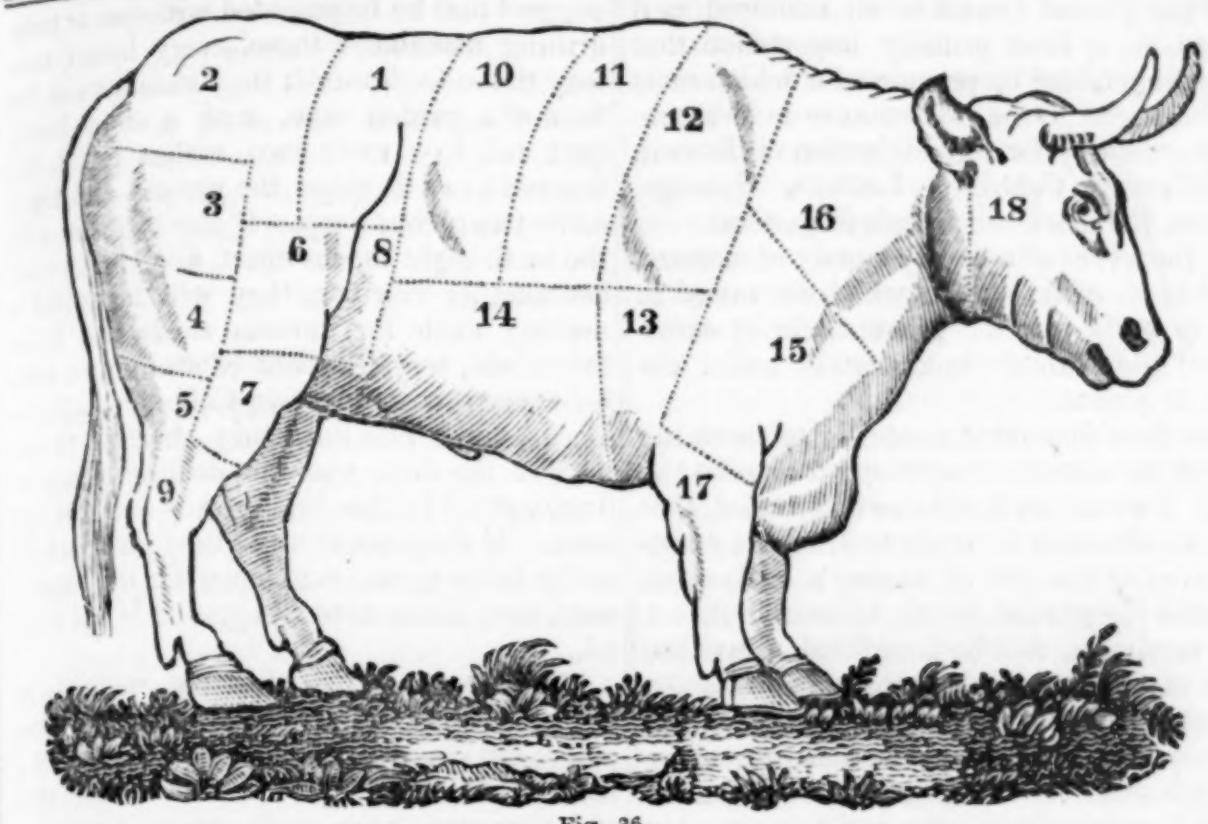

Fig. 36.

For the information of some of our readers and especially our young friends, we publish the above cut, which represents the method of dividing an ox for the table in most parts of the United States—in some sections however the method is varied, dividing into smaller pieces, but the manner of cooking is the same.

REFERENCES TO THE FIGURES.—1 Sirloin; 2 Rump; 3 Edge Bone; 4 Buttock; 5 Mouse Buttock; 6 Veiney Piece; 7 Thick Flank; 8 Thin Flank; 9 Leg; 10 Fore-Ribs—five-Ribs; 11 Middle-ribs; four ribs; 12 Chuck—, three-ribs; 13 Shoulder or leg of mutton-piece; 14 Brisket; 15 Clod; 16 Neck or sticking piece; 17 Shin; 18 Cheek.

METHOD OF COOKING .—*Hind Quarter.*—Sirloin, roasted—Rumps roasted, or steak, or stew—Edge-bone, boiled—Round, alamode, boiled, or savory salted beef—Veiney piece, steaks or roast, or baked or salted—Thick flank steaks, or corned—Thin flank the same—Legran, boil, soup, or stew—Leg, soup or stew. *Fore Quarter*—First cut, 2 ribs, roast—Second cut, 2 ribs, roast—Third cut, 2 ribs roast,—Fourth cut, 2 ribs, roast.—Chuck rib, boil or stew, or for making gravy.—Shoulder of mutton, piece-steaks, bouilli——Shoulder Clod, boil or soup, or beef sausages—Brisket, oil or bouilli, or stewing, or salted—Rattleran boil—Sticking piece, boil or soup—Neck, gravy—Shin, soup, excellent Scotch barley broth, stewed—Head, soup, stewed—Tail, soup, stewed—Heels, with the head, boiled, jelly, soup.

Let your stock of cattle, horses, &c. be of the best sort, and more remarkable for strength than fashion.

Remarks on Gardening.

BY T. BRIDGEMAN.

The mode of laying out the ground is a matter of taste, and may be left to the gardener himself; the form being a thing of trifling importance in the production of useful vegetables, or whether the ground be laid out in beds of four or ten feet wide, provided it be well worked, and the garden kept neat and free from weeds.

Those who have not a garden already formed, should, however, fix on a level spot where the soil is deep; but as we have not always a choice, I would recommend the reader to that which is within the reach, and ought to be the object of every man, namely, to *make* the most of what he has.

Previous to entering on the work of the garden, the gardener should lay down rules for his future government. In order to this, he should provide himself with a blank book. In this book he should first lay out a plan of his garden, allotting a place for all the different kinds of vegetables he intends to cultivate. As he proceeds in the business of planting his grounds, if he were to keep an account of every thing he does relative to his garden, he would soon obtain some knowledge of the art. This the writer has done for the last nine years.

One great article to be attended to is, to have a supply of good old manure and other composts ready to incorporate with the earth; also a portion of ashes, soot, tobacco dust and lime, for the purpose of sowing over seed beds in dry weather; this will tend in a great measure to destroy insects which sometimes cut off the young plants as fast as they come up.

If the ground cannot be all manured as it should be, it is of primary importance that those vegetables be provided for which most need manure. Good rich manure is indispensably necessary for the production of Brocoli, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Lettuce, Spinage, Onions, Radishes and Salads in general.

In the event of a scanty supply of manure, those kinds of vegetables which are raised in hills or drills, may be provided for by disposing of the manure immediately under the seeds or plants.

The next important matter is to have the ground in suitable condition to receive the seed. I would wish it to be understood, that I am an advocate for early sowing and planting, even at the risk of loosing a little seed, provided the ground be fit to receive it. A light sandy soil will be benefitted if worked when moist, as such treatment will have a tendency to make it more compact; on the contrary, if a clay soil be worked when too wet, it kneads like dough, and never fails to bind when drought follows, and this not only prevents the seeds from rising, but injures the plants materially in their subsequent growth, by its becoming impervious to the moderate rains, dews, air and influence of the sun, all which are necessary to the promotion of vegetation.

Much depends on the manure used on particular kinds of soils. The great art of improving sandy and clayey soils, is to give the former such dressings of clay, cow dung and other kinds of manure, as will have a tendency to bind and make them more compact, and consequently more retentive of moisture; and to the latter, coats of horse dung, ashes, sand, and such other composts as may tend to separate the particles and open the pores of the clay so as to cause it to approach as near as possible to a loam.

The nearer the ground approaches to a sandy soil, the less retentive will it be of moisture; the more to a clayey, the longer will it retain it; and the finer the particles of which the clay is composed, the more tenacious will it be of water, and consequently be longer in drying, and the harder when dry; but earth of a consistence that will hold water the longest, *without becoming hard when dry*, is that of all others, the best adapted for raising the generality of plants in the greatest perfection. This last described soil is called loam, and is a medium earth, between the extremes of clay and sand.

The work of drilling may be performed in various ways; in some cases a plough is used, in others a small hoe, or a dibble drawn along the edge of a board or line; it is of little consequence which way the work is done, if it be well done. While I leave the gardener to make his own choice of tools, I would suggest that he be provided with two or three drilling machines; these, every handy man may make for himself; they should be in the form of a garden rake, with a stout heavy back and five teeth two inches broad, and tapered so as to enter the ground and leave drills two inches deep. If one be made with the teeth eight inches apart, another twelve, and another fourteen, they will be useful in making drills for various seeds, and drills thus made, serve, instead of straining a line, for every row in planting Cabbage, Lettuce, Leeks, &c. The line being strained at one edge of the bed, and the drilling machine drawn strait by the line, makes five drills at once. If they are straight they may be kept so, by keeping one drill open for the outside tooth to work in until the ground be all drilled.

Gardeners practice different methods of covering up seeds, some do it with a hoe, others with a rake or harrow; some draw a portion of the earth to the side of the bed, and after sowing the seeds, return it regularly over the bed; in some particular cases a sieve is used, in others a roller. Rolling or treading in seeds is necessary in dry seasons, but it should never be done when the ground is wet.

There is nothing that protects young crops of Turneps, Cabbage and other small plants from the depredation of the fly, so well as rolling; for when the surface is rendered completely smooth, these insects are deprived of the harbor they would otherwise have under the clods and small lumps of earth. This method will be found more effectual than soaking the seed in any preparation, or dusting the plants with any composition whatever; but as the roller must only be used previous to, or at the time of sowing the seed, and not even then if the ground be wet, it is necessary that the gardener should have a hogshead always at hand in dry weather, containing infusions made of waste tobacco, lime, soot, cow dung, elder, burdock leaves, &c. A portion of these ingredients, or any other preparation that is pernicious or poisonous to insects, without injuring the plants, thrown into a hogshead kept filled up with water, if used moderately over beds of young plants in dry weather, would, in almost every case, insure a successful crop.

If it be necessary at any time to sow seeds in dry weather, it is recommended to soak the seed in water mixed with sulphur. This practice, with attentive watering, will cause the seed to vegetate speedily.

If it should be requisite to transplant any thing when the ground is dry, the transplanting should be always done as soon as the earth is fresh turned over, and the roots of the plants should be steeped in mud made of

rich compost, before they are set out.

I have in most cases recommended seeds to be sown in drills drawn from 8 to 12 inches apart, in preference to sowing broadcast, because the weeds can be more easily destroyed by means of a small hoe; and which, properly used, greatly promotes the growth of young plants.

Asparagus.

Asparagus plants may be raised by sowing the seeds in the fall as soon as ripe, or in March and the early part in April. It requires some of the best ground in a garden. The seed may be sown in drills, ten or twelve inches asunder, and covered half an inch with light earth. When the plants are up they will need a careful hoeing, and they should afterwards be kept free from weeds. The seed sown in the fall generally make the strongest plants, and will be fit to transplant into beds when they are a year old.

A plantation of Asparagus, if the beds are properly dressed every year, will continue to produce good buds for twenty years, or more.

New plantations of Asparagus may be made in the months of March and April. The ground for the bed must not be wet, nor too strong or stubborn, but such as is moderately light and pliable, so as it will readily fall to pieces in digging or raking, and in a situation that enjoys the full sun. It should have a large supply of good dung, three or four inches thick, and then be regularly trenched two spades deep, and the dung buried equally in each trench, twelve or fifteen inches below the surface. When this trenching is done, lay on two or three inches of well rotted manure all over the surface, and dig the ground over again, eight or ten inches deep, mixing this top dressing and incorporating well with the earth. The ground being thus prepared and made level, divided into beds, four feet and a half wide, with alleys two feet wide between each bed.

At each corner of every bed let a firm stake be driven in the ground, to serve as a mark for the alleys. Four rows of Asparagus are to be planted in each bed, and ten or twelve inches distance to be allowed between plant and plant in the row; and let the outside rows of each bed be eight inches from the edge.

Strain your line along the bed eight inches from the edge; then, with a spade, cut out a small trench or drill close to the line, about six inches deep, making that side next the line nearly upright, and when one trench is opened, plant that before you open another, placing the plants upright ten or twelve inches in the row.

The plants must not be placed flat in the bottom of the trench, but nearly upright against the back of it, and so that the crown of the plants may also stand upright, and two or three inches below the surface of the ground, spreading their roots somewhat regularly against the back of the trench, and at the same time drawing a little earth up against them with the hand as you place them, just to fix the plants in their due position until the row is planted; when one row is thus placed with a rake draw the earth into the trench, over the plants, and then proceed to open another drill or trench, as before directed; and fill and cover it in the same manner, and so on till the whole is planted; then let the surface of the beds be raked smooth and cleared from stones.

Some make new plantations with the seeds at once; this may be done by preparing the ground as before directed, and planting a few grains of seed in each place allotted for a plant; they should be afterwards thinned, leaving the strongest plants to stand at the same distances every way as before.

A plantation of Asparagus, thus raised, will produce buds fit to cut the third spring after sowing, but will be very large and fine the fourth year.

WINTER DRESSING OF ASPARAGUS BEDS.

About the beginning of November, if the stalks of your Asparagus turn yellow, which is a sign of their having finished their growth for the season, cut them down close to the earth, carry them off the ground, and clear the beds carefully from weeds.

Asparagus beds must have an annual dressing of good manure; let it be laid equally over the beds, two or three inches thick, after which, stretch a line, and with a spade mark out the alleys from eighteen inches to two feet wide, agreeably to their original dimensions.

Then dig the alleys one spade deep, and spread a considerable quantity of the earth evenly over the beds; observe to make the edges of the beds straight, full, and neat, and to finish your work in a becoming manner, giving a moderate rounding to the beds, especially if the ground be inclined to wet.

The alleys should be afterwards filled up with leaves, or litter well trampled down, would in some measure prevent the frost from entering that way to the Asparagus roots. The Seedling Asparagus should also have a slight dressing; that is, to clear the beds from weeds, and then to spread an inch or two in depth of dry rotten dung over it, to defend the crown of the plants from frost.

SPRING DRESSING OF THE BEDS.

This work should be done from about the latter end of March, to the middle of April. For the purpose of digging or forking these beds, you should be provided with a proper

fork, having three short tines, perfectly flat, and about an inch broad; however, in want of such, it may be performed with a small short pronged dung fork.

In forking the beds, be careful to loosen every part to a moderate depth, but taking great care not to go too deep to wound the crowns of the roots.

The above work, of forking these beds, is most necessary to be done every Spring, to improve and loosen the ground, and to give free liberty for the buds to shoot up.

The beds being forked, they must afterwards be raked even; observing, if you do not rake them immediately after they are forked, to defer it no longer than the first week in April, at which time a few Radish seeds may be scatterd over them, to pull up while young.

Asparagus plants will not produce buds large enough to cut for general use, in less than three years from the time of planting. But in the fourth year, when the shoots are three or four inches high, they will bear extensive cutting. The best way of cutting, is to slip the knife down perpendicularly, close to each shoot, and cut it off slantingly, about three or four inches within the ground, taking care not to wound any young buds coming up from the same root, for there are always several shoots advancing in different stages of growth.

From the Concord Freeman.

Salsify, or Vegetable Oyster.

Mr. Gourgas.—In an editorial notice of the Horticultural Register, in your paper a week or two since, I observed an allusion made to this delicious vegetable. It seems singular, that a plant which thrives so well in our own climate, which requires no greater attention than the generality of common garden vegetables, and which is so exceedingly delicious, should be a greater stranger with our farmers and at our markets, than many exotics of high price and less worth—yet so it is. With the wish to introduce it to the notice of others, allow me to furnish a few remarks upon its cultivation and use, the substance of which will be, perhaps, but a mere rèpetition of what has already been before the public.

The Salsify is a hardy perennial, of English origin, having a long, white, tapering root, very much like that of the common parsnep; by some methods of cooking, it is made to assimilate in taste of the oysters, and has thus received the second, and appropriate name of "*Vegetable Oyster;*" but when simply boiled like the beet or carrot, it possesses no flavor of this kind, or if any, so faint is it, that one would need to be reminded of the oyster in order to recognise any similarity of taste between the two. The seed should be sown in a deep rich soil, early in May; the ground should be deeply spaded, so that the roots may meet with no obstruction in their growth, and let it be well manured; sow your seed in drills, about the same distance apart as you do beets, or parsnips; cover it about two-thirds of an inch deep with mellow, clean earth, which should be pressed down hard with the flat of a hoe, so that if wet weather comes it may not be washed away, or if a dry time succeeds, it may the better retain its moisture: when fairly up, thin them well, and keep the surface of the ground thoroughly cleared of weeds the season through. The roots should be pulled about the middle of October, and packed away in the cellar in moist sand—they will keep well till the month of May.

There are various ways of cooking this vegetable, which it will be well to notice briefly, for the benefit of those who are unacquainted with it. First—cut the roots cross-wise in three pieces, boil them till soft; then mash and thicken them with flour, and fry them in butter. Second—par-boil them, cut them lehgthwise, and fry them in butter; it is by this mode of cooking that they are made to resemble [in taste] the oyster. Third—they may be simply boiled and eaten as other roots, or, after being boiled, sliced up and fried as an accompaniment to any roast dish. The best I have ever eaten were those which were boiled, and after being dished had some meat gravy or melted butter turned over them; as it regards the cooking, however each one must be his own judge of the best way.

I really wish our farmers would take to raising this delicious vegetable, for it requires no extra trouble, yields plentifully, and is *seldom destroyed by insects.* I believe if they once get a taste of it their tables would seldom be set without a good substantial dish of it on. But if they should not happen to fancy it particularly for home consumption, nothing will sell in the Boston market more readily, or for a better price; a rod or two of ground planted with it, would yield *treble* the profit of the same sized piece sown with onions or any other ordinary vegetable. The demand for it in the city has been and is nothing like supplied. This, if nothing else, should be some inducement to farmers and gardeners to take hold of the business this coming season.- J. D. E.

A French writer says, that "the modest deportment of those who are truly wise, when contrasted with the assuming air of the ignorant, may be compared to the different appearances of wheat, which, while its ear is empty, holds up its head proudly, but as soon as it is filled with grain, bends modestly down, and withdraws from observation."

Celery.

VARIETIES.—*White Solid—Rose Colored Solid—North's Giant Red—Italian—Celeriac, or Turnep Rooted.*

Those who may want Celery for summer use, should sow some seed of the White Solid in a slight hot bed early in March, but as plants raised in this way are apt to run to seed, it is much better to wait a fortnight, and sow some in a warm border. The seed for a general crop should be sown the last week in March, or early in April, in low but rich mellow ground; if it be sown in drills half an inch deep, and raked in even, it will produce strong plants by hoeing frequently between the rows.

The early sown plants should be picked out into a nursery bed of rich earth as soon as they are two or three inches long, there to remain about a month, after which they will be fit to transplant into the trenches.

Choose for this purpose a piece of rich ground, in an open exposure; mark out the trenches by line, 10 or 12 inches wide, and allow the space of three feet between them, which will be sufficient for the early plantations. Dig each trench a moderate spade deep, laying the dug out earth equally on each side, between the trenches; lay three inches deep of very rotten dung in the bottom of each trench, then pare the sides and dig the dung and parings with an inch or two of the loose mould at the bottom, incorporating all well together, and put in the plants. Previous to planting, trim the top of the plants, by cutting off the long straggling leaves, and also the ends of their roots. Let them be planted with a dibble, in single rows, along the middle of each trench, five or six inches between plant and plant, as soon as they are planted give them a plentiful watering, and let them be shaded until they strike root and begin to grow.

The main crops may be planted in the same way, but in trenches four feet distance from each other, and an inch or two further from plant to plant; or in beds made in the following manner, which for the ease of preserving the plants in winter, will be found extremely convenient, besides a greater quantity can be raised on a given piece of ground.

Lay out the ground into beds of four feet wide, with alleys between, of three feet; dig the beds a spade deep, throwing the earth on the alleys; when done, lay four or five inches of good well rotted dung all over the bottom of the beds, dig and incorporate it with the loose earth, and cover the whole with an inch or two of earth from the alleys; plant four rows in each bed at equal distances, and from six to eight inches apart in the rows; after which, give them a plentiful watering and shade them.

The plants must be hoed occasionally until grown of sufficient size for earthing, which is done with the assistance of boards, by laying them along the rows, to support the leaves while you are putting in the earth from the alleys, and removing them as you progress in the business.

The earthing should never be done when the plants are wet, as this is apt to make Celery rusty, but should be performed gradually in fine weather as the plants progress in growth, repeating the earthing every two weeks, at which time care should be taken to gather up all the leaves neatly, and not to bury the hearts of the plants. When they are grown two feet high, and well blanched, they are fit for the table. As Celery will grow three or four feet high in one season, it will be necessary to delay the planting of that which is intended for winter use until the latter end of July, but the trenches should always be got ready soon enough, to avoid a serious drought, which often delays the plantings till too late in the season. The blanching of Celery for winter use may be delayed until October.

The Celeriac or Turnep Rooted, may be planted either on level ground or in shallow drills, the roots of it swell like a Turnep and may be preserved in sand through the winter. The French and Germans cut it in slices and soak it a few hours in vinegar; by such simple preparation, it becomes as mellow as a Pine Apple, and affords a delicious and very nourishing repast.

Sugar Beet.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet.

Having somewhere seen a recommendation to sow the seed of the Sugar Beet so late as May, which I think is almost a month too late, I will state how I raised a few last year, some of which were very fine plants. Having no room except in my garden, I dug the land over, burying a little manure in each trench as I went on. When I had dug enough for one row, I stretched the line across the bed, and set my boy to put in, with a small setting stick, two or three pods into holes at nine inches distance from each other. Then I dug again till I had done two feet more, when we put in another row; and so on for ten short rows. This was done on the 10th of April last; but in an early spring, I think the first of April would be late enough. The seeds nearly all came up, but a few of the plants perished, and from what cause I do not know, as I was busy with other things, and did not notice them until it was time to

thin them out in May. I soaked some seed, and sowed again in the vacancies, but this sowing never came to above half the size of those sowed in April. I should have mentioned before that I soaked the seed of the first sowings several days before they were put into the land. The first sowing grew pretty large. I have a few saved for seed, one of which measures 18 inches in length, 20 inches in circumference, and is 2 inches in diameter, at the point of the root, though it is now shrunk considerably. A few years ago, I raised a few of the common Mangel Wurtzel and sowed them about the middle of April. The largest of those was 2 feet long, and 1 foot at least in circumference. A few of that sowing missed, but I do not attribute it to early sowing; perhaps badness of seed might be the cause. A slight frost did not affect them; therefore I recommend that they should be sown not later than the middle of April, and, in an early spring, I think the first of April quite late enough. In my operations, I partly followed Cobbett's directions for raising beets, which I will copy from his English and American treatises on gardening:

"Beets should be sown in the fall; but, if not, as soon as the ground is free from frost, and is dry in the spring. The ground should be rich, but not from fresh dung, which causes side shoots to strike out in search of it, and thereby makes the root forked, instead of straight; and, as in the case of carrots, a forked root is never considered to be a good one. The ground should be deeply and well broken, and all the clods ought to be broken into fine earth, because the clods turn the point of the root aside, and make it short, or forked. The ground being well and deeply broken, drills should be nicely made about two feet apart, and the seed laid along the drill at the depth of about an inch and a half, and at about a couple of inches from each other, it having been previously soaked about four days in soft water, if sown in spring. The earth that came out of the drill should be put back upon the seed, and pressed down upon it with the head of the rake. When the plants come up they should be thinned to about 9 inches apart in the row; the ground should be nicely flat-hoed and kept clean during the summer. In October the roots should be taken up, the leaves cut off within a quarter of an inch of the crown, the roots put to dry in the sun for a week or more, and then put away in some dry place, or packed in sand, like carrots, for winter use. Beets may be transplanted, and will, in that way, get to a very good size, but they are apt to be forked. Ashes of wood, or compost mould, is the best kind of manure for them. If not wanted till spring, they may be preserved thus:—After drying a few days in the sun, lay a little straw on the ground on a fine dry day, place ten bushels of them, (picking out all the cut and bruised ones,) in a conical heap upon the straw; put a little more straw smoothly over the heap, then cover the whole with six or eight inches of earth, and place a green turf at the top to prevent the earth being washed by rain before the frost sets in. The whole heap will *freeze* during the winter; but the frost will not injure them, nor will it injure carrots, preserved in the same way. If you have more than *ten* bushels, make another, or more heaps, for fear of heating, before the frost comes. When that comes, all is safe till spring; and it is *the spring*, that season of *scarcity*, for which we ought to provide."

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I am, respectfully, &c.,

C. W. H.

Near Germantown Jan. 30, 1838.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

A FARMER FOR ME BOYS!

Song for the Harvest Home.

By A. McMakin.

A Farmer's the man for me, boys!
A Farmer's the man for me;
While the ploughshare goes,
Or the heifer lows,
True lord of the soil is he,
True lord of the land is he, boys!
A Farmer—a Farmer for me.

Ere the sun shines over the lea, boys!
Ere the sun shines over the lea,
In the waiving main,
Of the golden grain,
He is happy as man can be,
He is happy as man can be, boys!
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With no care to mar his joy, boys!
No care to lessen his joy,
The toils of the day,
Pass quickly away;
At night he is merry and free,
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No drone of the hive is he, boys!
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Doth the sheaf assail,
And gathers from every tree,
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Treatment of Wounds on Horses.

Having seen a communication, extracted from the Maine Farmer, requesting information in regard to the treatment of wounds on horses, and having had some experience of the value of the following remedy, I confidently recommend its use. It is a solution of saltpetre and blue stone. The saltpetre should be first dissolved in warm water, in such proportions as to be moderately strong to the taste, and blue stone added, until the solution is *slightly* tinged. This, and nothing else, is to be used as a wash, two or three times a day. It purifies the wound, destroys proud flesh, produces granulations immediately, and heals the worst wounds in a surprisingly short time. I have had horses badly kicked and otherwise hurt, in mid-winter, and mid-summer; their cure was equally rapid, and afterwards no scar was visible. The wound requires no covering—flies will not approach it, and dressing it with a small mob of rags, tied to a stick, is very little trouble. Wounds do not require to be sewed up under this treatment, at least I never saw any advantage from it, as the stitches uniformly have torn out. The skin will approximate as the wound heals.

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MR. LIBBY:—February is a month in which farmers will find sufficient employment for all their time—their interests will require their undivided attention. It is a mistaken notion that it is a slack time—there are many things claiming the notice of considerate men. If there be leisure, (and that there are leisure moments in every season, no one will pretend to deny;) that leisure time ought to be devoted to the improvement of the mind, and the cultivation of those social principles which bind, or ought to bind, neighborhoods together. The cultivation of these principles are all important to the domestic peace and happiness of neighborhoods, and the well being of society. A good farmer, while he cultivates the soil, will also cultivate all those means of social improvement within his reach. Now is the time to attend to your stock. It has been said that an animal well summered is half wintered, and with equal propriety it has been replied that one well wintered is half summered. Every farmer will understand this. At this season, stock of all kinds require particular care. Cows, says Mr. Fessenden, "which are shortly expected to calve ought to be lodged at night in some convenient place under cover for a week or two, previously, as it might be the means of saving the life of the calf, and perhaps of the dam likewise. The day and night after a cow has calved, she should be kept under cover, and her drink should be luke warm. Let her not be exposed for some time to the dampness of the night." At this time cows should be fed with the best and most nourishing food. Pure water is an essential article for cows. Dr. Anderson says, that one person acquired great wealth, by attention to things of this nature. One of his principal discoveries was the importance of having an abundant supply of the purest water, and on no account would he permit an animal to set his foot in it, nor allow it even to be tainted by the breath of animals."

All cattle should be warmly housed, regularly fed, and well watered. Turneps, potatoes, magle wurtzle, and ruta baga may be fed to stock at this season to great advantage. If steamed, so much the better. But they should not be kept exclusively on roots; and turneps should on no account be given to sheep at this season. Some few of my neighbors have fed the sugar beet, and I am informed that cattle invariably prefer this to any other root. If, as its friends allege, it contains so large a proportion of sacharine matter, which is the fattening principle, and so great a yield on proper soil, as I have seen stated in the Cabinet, it will be a most valuable article for the keeping and fattening of stock, and its introduction into this country will be a public benefit, although a pound of sugar may never be made from it.* I design to satisfy myself next season by a thorough experiment.

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mean to give the poor things a *choice.*" Under date of March 15th, he says; "*Young Chickens*—I hear of no other in the neighborhood. This is the effect of my *warm fowl-house!* The house has been supplied with eggs all the winter, without any interruption. I am told that this has been the case in no other house hereabouts. We have now an abundance of eggs. More than a large family can consume. We send some to market." It would have been better if this extract had been made at an earlier period, but it is not now too late. The information is important. My own experience confirms the above. I adopted the plan recommended, with some slight improvements, with the best results. The greatest difficulty to guard against is vermin, and I would esteem it a favor if some of your correspondents would point out a suitable and efficient remedy.* The demand for poultry and fresh eggs is great in all our cities and large towns, and with proper care and attention, to this branch, I am well satisfied the farmer will reap a rich reward.

Respectfully,

David Hill.

Amwell, N. J. Jan. 27, 1838.

Hints for March.

BY FREDERICK BUTLER.

We suppose that you have now collected your wood and fencing stuff for the next season; your hemp and flax are in great forwardness, and your threshing was all closed early in February. You have cut your scions for grafting. Cut up your wood, and house it, or pile it up for the summer, and next winter; the difference in the saving, between green and dry, or seasoned wood, will nearly pay the expense of sledding, besides the extra trouble of kindling fires; both which are objects worthy of attention.

CLOVER AND RYE SEED.

If you have neglected to sow clover, at seed-time, upon your winter grains, you may now sow to advantage, as soon as the ground is bare; (the sooner the better,) or upon a light snow—both will answer well. You may harrow down your corn-hills, or light potatoe grounds, as soon as the surface is free from frost, and sow your spring rye, it will generally do better, than after a ploughing, as late as the first of May.

TOP DRESSING.

Dress with stable, compost, hog-pen, or such other well rotted manure as you have, such grass grounds as you have neglected in autumn; three loads now may be equal to two then; but it is best to secure a good crop even now. Your winter-grain should now be dressed with plaster, if it was neglected at seed-time; your mowing grounds, which are upon a dry soil, will pay you well for a bushel or two of plaster, or a few bushels of lime, or leached ashes, to the acre.

ORCHARDS.

Your orchards continue to claim your attention; finish trimming as fast as possible, and cart or sled off the brush before the ground becomes soft and poachy—give to each tree a top-dressing of your best chip, stable, or compost manure; your fruit will richly repay, besides the extra profits upon your grass under your trees; whether mowing or pasture, together with the growth of your trees. No farmer ever paid too much attention to his orchards, nor probably ever will.

FENCES.

Look to your fences, and see that they secure your orchards, grass and grain lands against your horses, cattle, and sheep. If your fences are bad, you have toiled in vain; all is at hazard; all is bad.

FRUIT AND SHADE TREES.

Commence setting your fruit and shade trees; these, if omitted in December, generally succeed best, (when set in the spring,) as soon as the frost is out of the ground.—Whenever the frost will permit, plough your hemp and flax ground, together with such land as you design for peas. Frequent ploughings greatly benefit these crops, and your peas cannot be sown too early to prevent the effects of the bug, and insure you a good crop.

WATER-COURSES.

Look to your water-courses, and change their direction to receive the benefit of the spring rains; the frequent changing of your water-courses, will render your mowing even, and prevent one part from becoming too rank, and lodging, before the other part is grown fit to cut, and thus turn to your best profit, that which if neglected, would become waste and damage.

STOCK.

Now is the time to nurse your stock with potatoes, carrots and other roots, (better if well steamed;) even your cattle and cows will pay you as well for the use of the curry-comb as your horses, and if you nurse them well in the spring, they will repay you with interest through the summer. Let your sheep range upon your old stubble fields, where you have not sown clover for mowing—green herbage is the most natural feed for

* Wage a war of extermination against rats, mice, and all vermin, whenever and wherever they may be found.

this animal at this season; but if you have no such range, potatoes and carrots, (not turneps,) may be used as a substitute. Secure them carefully against your grain, mowing, or young clover grounds, which you design for mowing; the damage they will do you by feeding on these, would be greater than they could repay.

Some farmers complain that red clover, when sown for mowing upon their orchard grounds, causes the trees to wither and decay. This may be remedied by sowing plaster of Paris upon your clover; your orchards will flourish as well as upon English mowing; one bushel to the acre in the spring, or fall, annually, will answer. It is of no consequence to inquire, why a crop so fertilizing as clover, should injure the orchard, nor why the plaster should prevent it; facts are stubborn things, and are generally, all that are of importance in good farming. Others have found from experience that red clover may grow to advantage upon orchard grounds, without injuring the trees, provided the clover is fed off before it blossoms; and thus fertilize their orchard grounds by feeding their clover. From this it appears, that the injury arises from the heads, or blossoms of the clover; but the manner in which the blossom produces this effect, is again inexplicable, and so in fact are all the operations of nature. One useful fact that shall enable the farmer to produce two spires of grass where only one had grown before, is of more real value, than a whole volume of nice philosophical disquisitions upon the operation of nature, in producing this grass; the first may be done; but the latter no man ever discovered, and probably never will.

PLOUGHING.

The season is now opening to commence your ploughing; every farmer, and every farmer's boy, feels perhaps as if he knew how to hold and drive the plough, better than the man who writes; all this may be true; he knows that he should never turn his furrow wider than the plough-share will cut clean; but always as much narrower, as the stiffness of the soil shall render necessary, to lay his furrows smooth and light, and free from clods; in all such cases of narrow furrows, the extra expense of ploughing, will be saved in the expense of harrowing, with this advantage to the crop, that the harrow pulverizes only the surface; but the plough, when properly directed, renders the earth mellow, to the whole depth of the furrow.—This again involves the question, how deep is best! To this I shall reply particularly, as it has become one of the most important questions in field husbandry. When you turn in a stiff, or clover sward, for corn, or potatoes, let your plough cut to the depth of 8 or 10 inches, if the substratum is not an impenetrable substance; you will thus lay the foundation for a deep soil for ever, in your after tillage. Your corn, and potatoes, when planted, will lie below the dead earth raised from the bottoms of your furrows, and will strike their roots into the rich mould which you turned down from the surface. The sun, air, and rains, together with such manure as you may apply, either in the hill, or by way of top-dressings, about the hills, will all fertilize the dead earth so turned up, and render it food for plants. The frosts of the next winter will further improve this dead surface, and thus, by the next season, when commixed with original mould, by a deep ploughing of the same depth, the whole will become a deep, rich, and fertile soil, and may ever afterward be ploughed to the same depth for the culture of any crops. The same is true, in a degree, of stubble grounds, ploughed, or ridged in, in the summer, after harvest; or of turnep ground fed by sheep, or of clover, or buck-wheat grounds, ploughed in, as fertilizing crops; but where you plough your fallows for wheat, rye, oats, barley, or turneps, you will never succeed in deepening your soil below the natural mould, unless you have first begun as above; because these crops strike a shallow root, and will be left to feed on the dead earth which you have brought up to the surface. These are the outlines, or first principles of good ploughing, and the minute attention of every farmer, will soon discover the mode which shall be best adapted to his different soils, and different crops, with this general principle, to deepen his soil at every ploughing, as far as the nature of the substratum, or under soil, and the safety of his crop will admit; and therefore in this way, he may soon bring his farm into a deep tillage. The success of one half of any one of his fields, under a regular deep tillage, compared with the other half under a shallow tillage, will be the most convincing argument in favor of deep ploughing, that can be laid before the practical farmer. Try and see.

This being the life of a farm, it is impossible to be too particular in improving it. I shall conclude this article with the following remarks.

1. The depth of your soil being determined as before, plough flat, or ridge, directly according to the *nature* of your soil.

2. If your soil is naturally dry, plough flat, and as level as possible, this will give an equal diffusion of moisture throughout your field; but if your soil is moist, plough into wide ridges of 18 to 24 feet, and if it is a wet soil, let your ridges not exceed 6 to 12 feet. The object of ridge ploughing, is to improve the furrows between the ridges, as

drains for the water, therefore multiply your drains, by narrowing your lands, or ridges, according to the moisture of your soil; and so *vice versa.* This is the best, if not only method of equalizing moist and wet lands.

3. In ploughing high hills, and steep acclivities, it is generally practised to plough directly up and down, with a furrow both ways: (up and down,) this is attended with two evils; 1st, it is very fatiguing to the team to carry a furrow up the hill; and 2d, it exposes the lands to be washed, and gullied in the furrows, which is sometimes ruinous.

4. These evils may be remedied by carrying a furrow down the hill only, and by inclining this furrow to the left hand, directly in proportion to the descent of the declivity—and suffering the team to re-ascend the hill without a furrow. This will lessen your day's work, not one half, but about one third, because your team will travel so much faster, both up and down the hill, when they carry but one furrow.—In this way, the steepest hills may be ploughed without a single furrow left open to the wash, except the last one, and the saving in the strength of the team, and in the value of the crop, which will arise from the extra goodness of the ploughing, will doubly compensate for the loss of time. In this way, the steepest hills, on which cattle can travel, may be ploughed to advantage, by striking the furrows transversely, or in a direction inclined to the left hand, directly in proportion to the steepness of the declivity.

5. In this way, one third or one half the strength of team will perform the work.

6. Where the descent is gentle, and not exposed to wash, let your ridges range exactly with the descent, that the surplusage of moisture may pass off easy, and regular, in the furrows.

7. If your business drives, and your land is light, you may fully compensate for the loss of time by widening your furrow slice; your plough-share will cut one fourth, one third, or even one half more, than in ploughing directly up and down, according to the steepness of the declivity, and the obliquity of your furrows.

8. All this, together with the general width of your furrow slice, must depend upon the judgment of the husbandman, directed by the quality of the soil. If the soil is hard and stiff, cut narrow; but if it is light and loose, cut your furrow slice as wide as the share will cut clean, and no further; all beyond this is cut, and cover, which is bad ploughing.

9. Plough all your lands as much as possible when the dew is on, in the morning, especially sandy, or light loamy lands, (when ploughed in summer,) and even in moist weather, if the season is dry; but as a general rule, improve a dry time, both for your ploughing, hoeing, and for your seed-time; your crops will always repay your attention, some extraordinaries in your soil excepted, and the surface will derive most benefit from the harrow in dry weather.

HARROWING.

No instrument of husbandry requires the judgment of the farmer more than the harrow: it is capable of doing the most good, and hurt, at the same time, of any other instrument.

1. The harrow, in field husbandry, answers to the rake in gardening, and cannot be made to pulverize your tillage lands too fine; but if this is done after your seeds are sown, it will cover them often too deep, and thus injure your crop; and in flax and hemp, often double the labor and expense in pulling; and in your grass seeds, by covering too deep, will destroy their growth.

2. Make it a general rule to level, and pulverize, as much as is necessary with the harrow, before you cast your seed, and then cover lightly with the harrow, according to the hardness, or stiffness of the soil—when the lands are light, once over will answer; but when they are stiff, twice may be necessary.

ROLLING.

The field Roller is an instrument much used in Europe, and in some parts of our own country; and its good effects much extolled by the best writers, and upon the following principles, viz.

1. When used upon sward ground broken up for corn, it compresses the furrows to the earth beneath, and thus it guards the corn against the effects of droughts, by equalizing the moisture.

2. When used upon a stiff soil, it breaks clods, and thus pulverizes that surface which could not be done with the harrow.

3. When used upon stony grounds laid down to mowing, it presses the stones into the earth even with the surface, at the same time that it breaks the clods, and thus prepares the way for the scythe in a cheap, and easy method.

4. When used upon a light, sandy, or loamy soil, at seed-time, it gives permanence, and consistence to the surface, which guards against drought.

5. When used in the spring, upon such winter grains as are exposed to be winter-killed, by the heaving of the frosts, it presses the earth to their roots and thus secures the crops.

These and many other advantages are ascribed to the roller; but upon this subject I

have no experience,—so far as it goes to break clods and press in stones, it will doubtless do well.

Sowing Locust Seed.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in propagating the locust from seed from the circumstance of their not readily vegetating. This may sometimes be owing to the fact that they do not always come to perfection here, but this is generally in consequence of not taking the necessary care in preparing them. The following method, for this purpose may not be generally known, or if known is not attended to. It will ensure success, and cause the seeds to grow as readily as beans, or Indian Corn. Place a quantity of the seed in a vessel holding a quart or two, pour on boiling water, and let it stand 24 hours. Then decant it, and it will be found that a considerable number are softened and swelled by the operation. These are to be separated from the rest, and planted; and to the remaining unswollen ones another portion of hot water is to be added, which also is to remain 24 hours, and a selection made to be planted as before. In a few days nearly the whole of the seeds will be thus prepared.—*Genesee Farmer.*

[The external surface of Locust seed is both tough and combined with a portion of oil, which prevents the necessary mixture from reaching the germ at the usual temperature of the earth, unless surrounded with a substance which will extract the oil. Pot-ash, soda, or the ley of wood ashes would probably effect this, when below the temperature of boiling water. The seed might be surrounded by the soda, or pot-ash in the earth, all in a dry state, at the natural temperature, which might be better than the boiling water; where seed are thus started in their growth by an artificial heat and moisture, might afterwards perish for want of a corresponding moisture in the earth, sufficient to continue that growth, as we sometimes see exemplified in grain, when sown in dry ground, after being steeped. Dry grain, which receives the necessary moisture from succeeding rains, generally succeeds best.]

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

Several articles, among them one on MARL, are necessarily deferred. They will appear in our next. Correspondents are requested to forward their communications at an early day.

COMPOSITION FOR RENDERING BOOTS AND SHOES WATER PROOF AND DURABLE.

Take one pint of boiled linseed oil, two ounces of common beeswax, two ounces of spirits of turpentine, and half an ounce of Burgundy pitch: let them be carefully melted over a slow fire. With this mixture new boots and shoes are to be rubbed, either in the sun or at a little distance from the fire, with a sponge or brush. This operation should be repeated, without wearing them, as often as they become dry, until they are fully saturated, which will require four or five times brushing: by this the leather becomes impervious to water. The boot or shoe thus prepared, lasts longer than common leather, it acquires such a pliability and softness that it will never shrivel nor grow hard, and in that state, is the most effectual preventative against colds, catarrhs, cholics, &c. It is necessary to remark, that shoes or boots thus prepared, ought not be worn until they are perfectly dry and elastic; as in the contrary case, the leather will become too soft, and wear out much sooner than it otherwise would.

MANURE.

The month of March is a very important one to farmers who wish to keep their farms in order, by saving and applying manure. As a great proportion of the manure from the farm yard is made from straw and refuse fodder, it is important that this should be turned to the greatest profit. It is more easily collected into heaps at this season before the frost is out of the ground than afterwards; besides, when the ground becomes soft, much of it is trodden into the ground, where it often remains after the ground becomes dry and hard. As removing all the soil from the yard, as deep as had been penetrated by the feet of cattle, would require too much labor, therefore it is better to scrape the manure into heaps as soon as the frost is out of it in the spring, and apply it to the fields as soon as is convenient, remembering that manure left to ferment in heaps until it becomes rotten, looses half of its valuable properties. We know that unrotted straw applied to some crops, would be unpleasant to work among, but yet, from the diversity of cropping on a farm, it can always be applied somewhere to advantage.

There needs no stronger proof of a slovenly farmer, than to see the manure lying round his barn year after year, piled up against the lower timbers, in many instances, rotting them away, not to mention the effect upon the atmosphere, which is unhealthy as well as unpleasant

Wheat.

Last spring we published some suggestions on the late sowing of spring wheat, as a means of saving it from the ravages of a yellow worm which some incorrectly call *weevil*. A number of our subscribers tried the experiment, and so far as we have heard, with entire success. A farmer in Grange county told us that he sowed one acre of spring wheat ten days later than the rest in the same field. The first sowed was seriously injured, the last not at all. Several, in other towns, made similar statements.

It has been observed, from the first appearance of this insect, that the earliest winter wheat was less injured by its attacks than any other. It is evident therefore, that the time of laying eggs is short. It is probably, soon after the heads make their appearance. Before they are defended by the leaf which encloses them; and when they appear, most probably the husk soon becomes so hard that the insect cannot pierce it to deposit her eggs upon the kernel. We have, then, only to ascertain the time as exactly as we can, in which the injury is done, and have our winter wheat too forward, and spring wheat not forward enough, for the operations of the insect, and the damage is avoided. At present sow your winter wheat as early as you can, and sow your spring wheat as late as you can, and give it time to ripen.

Farmers, and all who find either pleasure or profit in any thing made from wheat would be greatly indebted to any etymologist who should make us better acquainted with the character and habits of this destructive insect.

Grapes.

Much trouble has been taken to introduce foreign grapes and to render them familiar to our climate, whilst the native plant, of which our forests present a vast variety is comparatively overlooked and neglected. Inasmuch as the circumstances of their growing wild shows clearly their fitness for our country, would it not be well to pay particular attention to their transplantation and cultivation? How much fruits are improved by proper culture is shown by every day's experience, and there can be no doubt that some of our native vines, if properly tended, would furnish fruit infinitely surpassing the product of other soils, which only dwindle when transferred to climes for which their peculiar organization unfits them. To show the effects of culture in enlarging vegetable growth and improving their flavor and delicacy, we need only refer to the cases of many of the vegetables, now in daily use and highly esteemed, which in their unimproved condition were scarcely fit to be eaten.—*Baltimore American.*

Care needed for sheep.

Farmers who wish to carry their sheep safely and in good condition through winter, must recollect that the great secret is, to keep them constantly comfortable—in every sense of the word. To attain this, they must be properly sheltered from the wind and snow, they must have access to water, the strong and the weak must be separated into different flocks, and above all, they must have a regular supply of mangle wurtzel or ruta baga. It is indispensible too that constant regularity both in the quantity and nature of their food be strictly observed.—*Gen. Farmer.*

Sheep.

It is a well established fact that sheep as well as cattle, thrive better and are not so much inclined to sickness during the summer, if they are sheltered from the storms, and cold of winter. They should at least have a hovel to protect them from the north and easterly winds, and open towards the south whither they can retreat on the approaching of a storm. They should be fed there at sunset and sunrise, which will induce them always to return thither at night and remain till morning.

These hovels can easily be constructed of rails and dry seed weed or the branches of the red cedar and stubble. On the approach of a storm a farmer should always see them safely folded.

Strawberries.

As soon as your beds are bare in the spring spread over them a slight covering of straw, and set fire to it. This will consume all the decayed leaves, etc. left last season, and leave the whole neat and clean. Then spread on a little fine manure from the yard, or ashes [which answers quite as well,] and then a covering of chaff, say two inches thick. This method is said to bring the plants and fruit forward earlier; and to make the latter large, and of better quality. It keeps the fruit clean and ripens it finely. The burning over is recommended by Dr. Miller of Princeton, and other experienced cultivators. The use of the chaff is practised by the editor of the Southern Agriculturist, [he uses rice chaff,] who last year gathered from half an acre of plants, 48 bushels of the finest fruit. It was sold for 25 cts. a quart; and yielded therefore the aggregate sum of $360.—*Vermont Farmer.*

A Good Hint.

An esteemed correspondent of the Farmers' Cabinet, writing from the West, says:—"If the oak juggles, or large chips, cut out by the wood-choppers, when making rails, be laid on the shoulder of the covered drain, described at page 71, vol. 2, of the Cabinet, they will answer much better than the surface sod, and be more tasty. On the Prairies, in Illinois, where the drains are dug in precisely the same manner and form as those referred to above, and where the surface sod is not firm enough to form a sufficient roof, juggles are used."

From the Maine Farmer.

"Thinks I to Myself."

We are indebted to a worthy and observing friend for many of the following hints.

When I see a mass of chips accumulated in a farmer's back yard, remaining year after year, "thinks I to myself," if the coarser ones were raked out, they would serve for fuel, while the finer parts with the addition of soap-suds, &c., from the house would afford a valuable source of manure.

When I see a convex barn-yard, "thinks I to myself," there is comparatively but little manure made there.

When I see banks of manure resting against a barn during the summer season serving only to rot the building—"thinks I to myself," that manure might be employed.

When I see the drainings of a barn-yard finding their way into gullies and rivulets, while with small expense they might be thrown on to a valuable swell or declivity, "thinks I to myself," that farmer is blind to his own interest.

When I see a hog-yard not well supplied with materials for making manure, "thinks I to myself," that man suffers loss for the want of care.

When I see a piece of hoed ground in a mowing field, and the turf, stalks, and stones that were carried out by the plough or harrow not collected together, "thinks I to myself," there is something slovenish in the case.

When I see ploughing done, year after year, in the same track by the side of a fence or a gully, till a dyke of considerable height is thrown up, and of course a corresponding leanness in the interior, "thinks I to myself," there is a want of good husbandry.

When I see a stone wall topped out with a single tier of round stone, "thinks I to myself," the upper foot in the height of such walls ought never to have been put on, and look out for dull scythes and loss of hay.

When I see fruit trees loaded with twice the top necessary for bearing well, and this perhaps partly dead, thereby keeping the needed rays of the sun from the under crop, "thinks I to myself," here is an indication of bad husbandry.

When I see stones piled around the trunk of a fruit tree, "thinks I to myself," here is an invitation to suckers and to mice, and if dull scythes should follow, it would not be strange.

When I see a total failure of a crop of Indian corn, "thinks I to myself," if that man had bestowed all the manure and perhaps two-thirds the labor on half the ground, he would have had a fair crop and a fine piece of ground for a crop of Ruta Baga the following year.

When I see a farmer selling his ashes for ten cents per bushel, "thinks I to myself," he had better have given the purchaser fifty cents to leave it for his corn and grain.

CUT STRAW FOR HORSES.

At this season of the year, horses that are used much, or that perspire freely, are apt to take cold, and become hide-bound. They require, once or twice, a couple of table spoonfuls of sulphur mixed with their food, which should be of cut straw, and corn and cob, and oats, ground together. If well curried, their skin will soon be loose, and they will begin to thrive immediately.

A NEW AND CHEAP PAINT,

More impervious to the Weather than Common Paint.

Take of unslacked lime a quantity sufficient to make two gallons of white wash when slacked—mix it with a due quantity of water—add to it two and a half pounds of brown sugar, and about three ounces of salt. The exact proportion of each will be best ascertained by experiment. This, when applied as a paint, becomes perfectly hard and glossy. By mixing either ivory black, or lamp-black, with the ingredients, a beautiful lead color may he had, or a yellow, by mixing suitable ingredients. This paint is now almost altogether used at the south for houses, fences, &c.

The quantity of rain which fell in Philadelphia, during the last month (January, 1838) was two inches and twenty hundredths. (2:20.)

Endeavor to raise good grain, for it will always sell; even in years of plenty; whereas it is only in dear and scarce seasons that there is a demand for grain of an inferior quality.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

When is the best time to plough sod for Corn.

A diversity of opinion exists among practical farmers, as to the best time to plough sod for corn. Some are in favor of ploughing it in autumn, some in the winter—some as soon as possible in the spring, after the frosts of winter have subsided, while others prefer leaving it as late as possible, that they may have it accomplished by the time they wish to plant their corn. Ploughing at each of these seasons has its advocates, from certain peculiar advantages supposed to be derived therefrom. Amongst these may be enumerated, certainty for a medium crop, destruction of depredators, and exemption from labor. To answer the above question, to be of practical utility to the farmer, essential regard must be had to economy, the philosopher's stone in the science of agriculture. That in which the greatest certainty of a crop, with the least amount of labor is connected, is certainly the preferable; and, however plausible theory may be, the only data sufficient to furnish the solution is, experience.

The principal argument offered in favor of autumn ploughing, is the destruction of the cut-worm, which, in some seasons, commits such destructive ravages in the corn crops. Sufficient of this was to be observed in the season of 1836. No person who has the least experience in the matter, I presume, will doubt, but that autumn, or winter ploughing, will obviate the loss to be apprehended from this source.

The best scientific description of the cut-worm, which has yet come under my notice, is by "Observer," in Vol. 2, No. 2, of the Cabinet. His ideas on the subject and mine coinciding, I give them verbatim:

"Habits.—I am not aware that the manner in which the cut-worm, phalæna, deposits its eggs, has ever been observed. I can, therefore, only arrive at probable conclusions. As very few phalæna survive the winter season, it is probable that the eggs are deposited in autumn, among the grass, at or near to the surface of the ground. The eggs appear not to hatch until spring."

The correctness of this view is inferred from the success of fall, or very early spring ploughing, in preventing the ravages of the cut-worm. It may be proper to inquire a little, how winter ploughing produces this result. I apprehend that the eggs become buried so deep in the earth, that the vivifing influence of the sun and air, does not reach them, or if they do hatch at such a depth, they must perish before reaching the surface, where, alone, food is to be found to nourish them. In late spring ploughing, the same thing would not so certainly happen; vegetation having started, the proper food for the worms would be buried along with them, and the loose state of the fresh ploughed land not only admits the passage of warmth and air, but would greatly facilitate the egress of the worm to the surface. Even should the moth survive the winter, and not deposit its eggs till spring, the foregoing explanation will apply equally well; or if the moths should find the ground already ploughed, they would probably seek some other field in which to deposit their eggs. It is generally admitted, that *fall, or very early spring ploughing* does, in some way, prevent the cut-worm from injuring our corn crops."

Now, to obtain a correct solution of the question under consideration, after having weighed all the advantages arising from fall ploughing, it will be equally necessary to take into consideration, also, all the disadvantages it presents. The great disadvantage attending fall ploughing, for corn, particularly if the winter and spring be open and mild, is this—the sod, instead of undergoing decomposition, by having the roots of the grass killed, with the timely use of the harrow, will carry on such a process of vegetation as to increase the labor of cultivating it at least two-fold. I remember to have seen this particularly illustrated in the year 1828. The winter and spring having been remarkably mild, in a field that was ploughed the fall previous, the grass had become so strong, that I feel myself safe in saying, that it required three times as much labor as ordinary to conquer the grass, not to be an injury to the crop of corn.

To the correctness of the foregoing statement by "Observer," of the efficacy of early spring ploughing, in preventing the ravages of the cut-worm, I need but add, that so far as my experience is concerned, it is equally as efficacious as fall ploughing: and ground ploughed in the spring, will scarcely need half the tillage to destroy the grass, as that ploughed in the fall.

The chances of winter ploughing being, at best, but precarious, and the object to be obtained being similar to that of fall ploughing, it deserves no particular notice in these remarks.

Farmers sometimes think it an object of some importance, to leave their ploughing as late as possible in the spring, that their stock may derive some benefit, from the pasture afforded by the sod. This may answer extremely well, in those seasons affording a paucity of worms, particularly if the sod be not too tough. The ground, in this case, will be in finer tilth, than in either of the preceding. Some intelligent farmers are of opinion, that crops of corn, planted on a late

ploughed stiff sod, have been injured by the whole furrow being moved with the cultivator, in the dressing of the corn. This reasoning appears sufficiently plausible, especially if the ploughing is not of sufficient depth—and argues also in favor of deep ploughing. But the danger incurred, of having the crop injured by the cut-worm, by leaving the ploughing till so late a period, overbalances all the advantages it presents.

A writer in the last number of the Cabinet says, "We also have a variety of means to destroy depredators and convert them into food for vegetables, such as the frost of winter on the embryo of the cut worm, as exemplified by the benefit arising from autumn and winter ploughing." In view of the above, and other reasons, he draws the following conclusion.

"Land for Indian corn should be ploughed in the autumn or winter preceding the planting."

If he has actually discovered, that the frost of winter destroys the embryo of the cut worm, he has added one link to the great chain of scientific facts, which has hitherto evaded the research of some of the most profound inquirers. My knowledge upon the subject being entirely analagous, I shall advance my objections, by proposing a few inquiries. But in the first place let me observe, that in the abstract, the eggs producing the cut worm, must consequently be deposited in or before autumn. 1. If the frosts of winter destroy the embryo of the cut-worm, why has not the insect long since become extinct? 2. Where does the phalæna deposit its eggs, at the surface of the ground, or about furrow depth below? If the phalæna deposits its eggs at the surface of the ground, and the embryo is destroyed by the frosts, then I should conclude, that the best method to get them destroyed, is to leave the ground unploughed during the winter, that their situation may be the more exposed; as ploughing them down would have but a tendency to preserve them from the rigors of winter. But if the eggs are deposited about furrow depth below the surface, then early spring ploughing, I presume, instead of destroying them as proved by experiment, would have a tendency to promote their advancement, by exposing them to the genial influence of the sun.

Now the idea of the cut-worm being destroyed by the frost of winter, appears to me, to hold good, neither in theory nor in practice. I presume, that in autumn, winter, or spring ploughing, we must look for its destruction, to some other source than the frost. As I am not writing a philosophical dissertation on the habits of the cut-worm; but inquiring, when is the most advantageous time to plough sod for corn; for, what appears to me, to be the most probable cause of its destruction, I must refer to the quotation from "Observer." If nothing else was to be taken into consideration but the destruction of the cut worm, I should agree that autumn ploughing, was perhaps as advantageous as early spring ploughing. But with regard to economy, and exemption from labor, with the equal certainty for a full crop, experience and argument, in my opinion, fully prove, that as *early as possible in the spring, is the best time to plough sod for corn.*

A.

Chester County, Feb. 3, 1833.

BROCOLI.

This plant belongs to the cabbage family but has not been cultivated in the U. States as much as the common cabbage. It appears to be a mixture between the cauliflower and common variety, and perfects itself with more certainty in this latitude than the cauliflower. Like the latter it is cultivated for the congregation of flower-buds, which is the part used; these appear in a conical shape, and are very tender. When used, they are boiled, and served up with drawn butter. The plants are to be sown and treated in the same manner as cabbage; and there is also early and late varieties, both of white and purple color. The purple cape brocoli, or fall brocoli, is one of the best varieties for our climate, as the head of the flower-buds is large and close, and although the color, when growing, is a pale purple, when boiled, it is of a beautiful green. In flavor, brocoli much resembles the cabbage, but the part used is extremely tender and delicate.

We would recommend to every farmer, to set out a few of the plants with his cabbage.

A RARE EXAMPLE OF HONESTY.—A circumstance recently occurred in our vicinity which we think deserving of notice. Mr. D. of the city, says the "Commercial Herald," wished to purchase a horse of Mr. B. of the county. One hundred and ten dollars were asked, and one hundred offered. Mr. B. agree to take one hundred dollars, provided he could have the use of the horse for one week. This was assented to, and the money paid. On the day that the horse was to be delivered, he died. Mr. B. promptly offered to refund the money. Mr. D. declined receiving it. Each insisted on being the loser. Mr. B. was finally prevailed on to retain $25, which was all he could be induced to keep. If we were all to act thus nobly, how rarely would the peace of society be disturbed by litigation.

"When SELF the wavering balance shakes
'Tis RARELY right adjusted."

ARTICLES.	Philadelphia Feb. 10.	Baltimore, Feb. 9.	New York, Feb. 10.	Boston, February 9
Beans, white, per bush	$1 38—1 62	1 25— 0 00	0 14—0 15	1 12— 1 30
Beef, mess, new, per bbl	14 00—15 00	11 00—13 00	14 00—15 00	14 50—14 75
Bacon, western, per lb	8— 10	9— 10	8— 10	.....
Butter, extra, per tub	12— 14	16— 20	21— 23	22— 25
Butter, fresh, per lb. [market.]	00— 00	20— 25	20— 25	25— 28
Hams, per lb	10— 11	13— 13½	10— 12	14— 15
Hog's Lard, per lb	9— 10	9— 10	10— 11	9— 10
Cheese, American, per lb	9— 10½	9— 11	8— 9½	8— 9
Beeswax, yellow, per lb	25— 30	23— 25	26— 27	26— 31
Beeswax, white	.....	38— 40	38— 40	38— 40
Bristles, American	42— 65	25— 65	25— 65	.....
Flax, American	7½— 8	9— 10	6— 7	9— 12
Flour, best, per bbl	8 00— 8 50	7 75— 8 75	7 00 7 75	9 50— 9 62
GRAIN—Wheat, per bush, Penn'a	1 55— 1 65	1 70— 1 80	.. ..	.....
Do. Maryland,	1 50— 1 60	1 45— 1 55	....	.....
Rye, per bushel	0 90— 1 00	0 90— 0 95	1 00— 1 18	1 33— 1 37
Corn, do	70— 77	0 70— 72	1 10—1 12½	0 94— 0 98
Oats, do	36— 37	37— 38	40— 50	52— 55
Barley, do. Penn	85— 90	.....	0 00—	0 00—0 00
Peas, do	1 00— 1 25	75— 1 00	—	.....
HAY, Timothy, per 100 lbs	0 80— 0 85	12 00 per ton.	.....	18 00 per ton.
Meadow Grass,	70— 80	.....	.....	.....
Hemp, American dry rot, ton,	150 0—160 0	—	130 00 140 0	.....
Hops, first sort, 1836, lb	9— 10	— 9	6— 7½	6— 7
Plaster Paris, per ton,	3 25—3 37½	0 00— 3 50	2 50—	3 00— 3 25
SEEDS—Cloverseed, per bushel,	5 25— 5 50	5 00— 5 50	.....	14— 15
Flaxseed, rough, do	1 40— 1 46	1 37— 1 50	1	.....
Timothy,	2 00— 2 50	3 25— 4 00	1 95—2 00	2 87— 3 00
Tallow, per lb	11— 11½	— 11	— 11	12— 13
WOOL—Saxony, fleece, per lb	00— 00	40— 50	50— 00	50— 55
Merino,	46— 48	35— 40	37— 00	45— 47
1-4 and common,	33— 36	25— 30	40— 50	33— 38

Prices of Marketing, as near the average as can well be ascertained.

Beef, - -	7½ by the quarter.	Potatoes, -	40 a 50 per bushel.
Pork, country killed,	- - 6 a 8.	Sweet Potatoes,	75 a 1 00 do.
Veal, - -	6 a 8 cents per lb.	Apples, - -	- 75 do.
Mutton, - -	- - 6 a 8.	Dried Apples, -	1 50 a 1 75 do
Dried Beef, -	12½ a 15 per lb.	Dried Peaches -	- 4 00 do.
		Cider, - -	a 3 00 per barrel.
Chickens, -	75 a 1 50 per pair.	Lard, - -	- 14 a 16 per lb.
Geese, - -	1 00 a 1 25 a piece.	Hams, - -	- 16 do.
Ducks, - -	75 a 1 25 a pair.	Shoulders, -	- 12½ do.
Butter, - -	- 25 a 28 per lb.	Oak Wood, -	- 5 00 a 6 00.
Eggs, - -	18 a 20 per doz.	Hickory Wood, -	- 6 50 a 7 50.

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